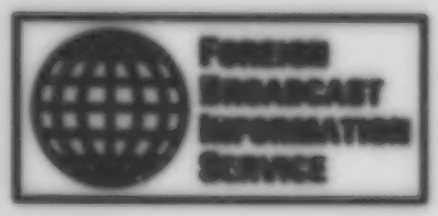

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Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Mazin, 'Arafat Meet With Russian Envoy

LD3011183192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, met on 27 November with the Russian first deputy foreign minister and handed him a letter from brother President Abu-'Ammar and the Palestinian leadership to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian leadership. During the meeting, Brother Abu-Mazin reviewed with the Russian first deputy foreign minister the Palestinian position and assessed the seventh round of bilateral relations in Washington. Brother Abu-Mazin stressed during the meeting the urgent necessity of providing a new driving force for the peace process through more initiatives by the two co-sponsors of the peace process, that is, the United States and Russia. He stressed the sincere desire of the PLO and the Palestinian people to reach a just and durable peace and called upon all the influential international parties to play a more effective role to bring the Israeli Government to show a response positive sufficient for the requirements of peace. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives Yeltsin Message

LD3011175692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, received at noon today Boris Shchibutin, the Russian ambassador in Tunis. During the meeting, Brother Abu-'Ammar received a message from Boris Yeltsin marking the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people in which he said: On the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, I would like to send to you and to all of the Palestinian people my good wishes and hope that your national rights would soon be met.

Russia will, in its role as a sponsor of the peace process, continue its active efforts aiming at bringing about comprehensive and lasting solution in the Middle East to the benefit of the Palestinian cause. I hope that the PLO leadership will adopt a practical and positive line which would meet the interest of the Palestinian people and help the process of peace, security, and stability in the Middle East region.

Brother Abu-Ammar, on his part, briefed His Excellency the Russian ambassador on current political development and the latest situation inside occupied Palestine.

Mitterrand Statements on Need for Peace Welcomed

LD3011180892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpt] An authoritative Palestinian source made the following comment on French President Francois Mitterrand's recent statements:

The PLO has appreciated and highly rated the courageous and principled stand of President Francois Mitterrand which he expressed in his comments before and during his tour to the region as well as during his meeting with the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem during which a message from brother Yasir 'Arafat was conveyed to the French president. Such a stand, which has reaffirmed commitment to the principles of international legitimacy and defined clearly the necessary requirements for bringing about just peace in our region, has reiterated the French commitment to issues of freedom and to the people's right to peace.

The PLO, while it praises such stands which stems from President Mitterrand's experience and wisdom, asserts the great need for France contributions—as well as those from the EC—to the peace process in our region and reiterates its eagerness to consolidate the continuous contacts, which depict the excellent relations between France and the state of Palestine, with the French Government. [passage omitted]

Commentary Praises French Support

LD3011215492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, the Palestinian people know that a lion in France, state and people, a friend with whom relations are based on the respect of joint principles, especially the French continuous support since the 1967 war for the establishment of the legitimate national Palestinian people's rights as a basis for reaching an acceptable political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue. Indeed, the Palestinian people appreciate France's support and supportive positions to this effect and its positive role towards it at the European and international levels. [passage omitted]

In order to crown this French stand, we are calling for a Palestinian-French summit meeting in which Mitterrand and 'Arafat meet. This will give firm and concrete stress to the French principled stand. Despite our firm appreciation of the French role in support of the Palestinian people, morally and materially, we must stress two important issues. First, we can seek in our endeavors to try to find a balance between the French stand which a calling for the lifting of the Arab boycott of Israel and the request for the participation of the PLO in the negotiations. [We can see] an injustice to the rights of the Arabs and Palestinians. The reason of this injustice is as follows: We believe that the occupier and those who are

under occupation could not share the responsibility of the existing situation equally. The participation of the PLO and the establishment of the Palestinian state are two firm rights of the Palestinian people. As regards the request for the lifting of the boycott, it must be put in its right context, which consists in the fact that the boycott is a reaction to something that Israel had started, and that ending the occupation is the logical and practical way of ending this boycott. Second: We also think that it is unfair for France to ask us to adopt a step by step policy in the peace process. This injustice consists in the fact that we originally agreed to follow this policy, but our firm premise is that the definition of principles cannot be done according to the policy of steps, but in a frank and direct way. That is to say that Israel should determine in a frank and clear way the principles upon which these negotiations are based and imagine the way they should end. As regards the way to implement them, it could take place, then, within the policy of steps. For the steps to be effective, one must know that they will go as far as the end. Should these steps be left to Israel, then it will stop them right after the first step. We hope that the French will understand and support the Palestinian stand and defend it within the EC so that its role in the negotiation process becomes more effective, and in the international spheres to lead them to endeavor for the achievement of the political settlement which is based on the principles in which France believes.

'Arafat Address on International Solidarity Day

LD2911193992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Address by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied land on the occasion of international solidarity day on 29 November; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] My brothers, beloved ones, sons of our heroic people: One year has passed since the beginning of bilateral negotiations at the Madrid Conference and no results have been achieved. The negotiations have not achieved their objectives, where Palestinians are concerned, as they had been set by the co-sponsors, the United States and Russia. The co-sponsors had said in their letters of invitation and guarantees that the negotiations would be carried out on the basis of President George Bush's initiative, which is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on the principle of land for peace, of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, of peace for all the peoples in the region, including our Palestinian people.

They also said that the negotiations would last only one year and lead to the emergence of provisional Palestinian autonomy which, according to our letter to the sponsors, would be limited to one year only as regards its legislative and executive apparatuses. This means the beginning of Israeli withdrawal from our land, according to an agreed timetable.

After one [word indistinct] year, however, during which seven rounds of strenuous negotiations were held and a change of Israeli Government occurred, the negotiations have not achieved any clear progress on essential issues, while the Israeli Government continues to reject the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242 on our occupied land, proposing a formula of [word indistinct], which is no more than a local government and which offers local elections instead of legislative elections.

The Israeli Government also is rejecting the principle of withdrawal from our land, which it treats as though it was a regional part of [its territory], not as Palestinian national territory under occupation; is intensifying its settlement activity there; is rejecting the inclusion of the topic of honorable Jerusalem on the agenda of negotiations; is procrastinating and placing hurdles in an attempt to [word indistinct] from its substance, which clearly and deliberately has led the process [word indistinct] to an impasse, thus obstructing the progress of the Palestinian march.

O our fighting Palestinian people, the Israeli Government is banking on the weakness of the Arab position and continued Arab disunion and fragmentation in the hope of containing our national rights and the efforts aimed at finding a just and comprehensive settlement. But our great Palestinian people, who are standing fast, are camped on this blessed land, the land of sanctity and religions, the cradle of the prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, and the cradle of Christ, may God's peace be upon him, with pride and [words indistinct] in the defense of this holy land and for the implementation of international legitimacy and the resolutions relevant to the cause of our people and their permanent and inalienable national rights.

We are calling on the international community and the United Nations to exercise the necessary pressure and to make the necessary efforts to force the Israeli Government to adhere to the international legitimacy and the UN resolutions.

At the same time, we are wondering whether international legitimacy has a single standard or two—one in favor of Israel and the other against our Arab nation and against our Palestinian people. Yes, we are wondering and we know the answer. O our fighting people, no one from us or among us will forsake our rights, our honor, our Jerusalem, our sanctities, and the future of our children. No one from us or among us will abuse our national unity which is our strong [word indistinct] shield against this [word indistinct] and abominable occupation.

Your rallying around the PLO, the base of our just nationalist struggle and of our national unity, is the stone against which all attempts and plots to usurp the rights of our people to freedom, independence, and sovereignty will be smashed. No security, peace, or stability can be achieved in the region as long as our land remains

plundered, our people homeless, and our rights usurped. A just peace and stability in the region require first and foremost the recognition of our rights and the national rights of our people and a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian lands, including holy Jerusalem. No peace without Jerusalem and no stability without our permanent national rights and no security without the implementation of the resolutions and international legitimacy relating to the Palestinian cause. Otherwise, our people will continue their fight with perseverance, steadfastness, and resolve in the defense of holy Jerusalem [words indistinct]. The Intifadah will continue to be sweeping and will continue to escalate until the end of this abominable occupation of the land and the sanctities.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, and we wished to be gracious to those who were being downtrodden in the land to make them leaders in faith, and to make them heirs, to establish a firm place for them in the land. [Koranic verse] God speaks the truth. We are confident, brothers, that dawn is coming, that victory is coming. Is morning not near? A cub scout of my country or a flower [girl scout] from our sacred land will hoist the flag of Palestine, the flag of freedom, and independence, the flag of justice and human rights on the blessed land of Palestine. Let this day, brothers, the day of international solidarity with the Palestinian people, be a day of strike as (?recommended) by [word indistinct], and a day of demonstrations, (?resistance) activities and marches, a day of [word indistinct] anger in the face of occupation. We are together and the same until victory, on the road to Jerusalem, the road to [word indistinct], until we realize our objectives, retrieve our rights, and liberate our land, Almighty God willing.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, on that day will the believers rejoice with the help of God. He helps whom he will, and he is exalted in might, most merciful. This is the promise of God. God does not fail in his promise, but most people know not. [Words indistinct] victory. [Koranic verses] God speaks the truth. It is revolution until victory, until victory, until victory. Your brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

Radio Notes Day of Solidarity

LD2911221092 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Nov 92

["Addendum to call no. 89 of the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising"]

[Text] O masses of our heroic people, who are steadfast and resilient in the positions of manhood and honor, who are writing with your blood and sacrifices our right to our land and our own independent state, God willing. To you we swear and pledge that we will remain loyal to our cause and to the blood of the martyrs. We are on the threshold of the anniversary of the unjust [1948] partition decision, this anniversary that has been marked by the sacrifice and struggle of the masses of our brave people to become an international day of solidarity with our just cause and our great people.

All the nationalist forces and the world peace forces have stood on our side, and this was expressed in specific form by the UN resolution that considered it an international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. At this anniversary, we affirm the contents of Unified National Leadership of the Uprising statement no. 89, and we stress that today 29 November is a day of general strike; a day of distinguished struggle, with confrontation of the occupation forces by all available means; a day when the masses of our brave people hold national festivals and popular marches rejecting occupation and underlining our eternal right to our land and statehood, with our flag fluttering on the heights of mountains, on churches and mosques, and on every spot of our dear homeland.

O masses of our heroic people, on a day like this, we stress national unity and the fact that we will take our national struggle to the level of the gravity of this stage facing this unity, all the more so since we are living through an attempt to divide our effort and forces, and to fragment our kinsfolk into sects and factions. Today, more than any previous day, we are called upon to rally around our revolution which is the leader of our struggle, and our sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

Through the years of its long struggle, your revolution has waged revolutionary struggle, and here we are today waging, alongside it and with all loyalty and commitment, a political war that might be more difficult and more violent. In this, your revolution is based on its constant principles as witnessed by the years, and it is also based on your rallying around it, thus motivating our strength and determination. Your revolution is motivated by the blood of the martyrs,the pains of the injured, the sufferings of the prisoners, and the determination to struggle until the Palestinian banner is hoisted on the land of the Palestinian state.

Palestine is the land of prophets, the land of holy messages, the land of the ascension of Muhammad, may the prayers and peace of God be upon him, and the cradle of Christ, may the peace of God be upon him. It is today crying for help from its sons. Let us rush forward as one, and let us prove to the world that with our struggle, blood, and sacrifices we write down our right to our land and homeland.

Long live the brave Intifadah of our people. Glory and eternal life to our loyal martyrs. Long live the PLO, our sole legitimate representative. It is revolution until victory.

'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Negotiations

JN2611125192 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 26 Nov 92 p 18

[Interview with "State of Palestine President" Yasir 'Arafat by an unidentified correspondent in Tunis, date not specified]

[Text] [AKHBAR AL-USBU'] Mr. President, what do you think about the call made by Rabin, the Iranian leaders, and Ahmad Jibril to remove you from the PLO leadership? What is the purpose behind these calls?

['Arafat] First, it has to be known that the Palestinian leadership, the Palestinian arena, and the Palestinian people reject custodianship and subordination. Our people can only be directed by the will of the Palestinian masses and Palestinian legitimacy. I can understand Rabin's motive behind such a call. He is an enemy and does not want a Palestinian leadership obstructing his aggressive, settlement, and expansionist schemes; nor does he want a just peace, but a capitulation for our Palestinian people and the Arab nation. He has not found anyone in this Palestinian leadership, or in the delegation that talks on its behalf and on behalf of the Palestinian people, to accept this distorted logic, which is rejected by our people and the Palestinian and Arab masses. Thus, talks on the Palestinian track reached a deadlock because the Palestinian leadership refuses to relinquish the national rights and the Islamic and Christian sacred places and Holy Jerusalem. It means on abiding by what is stipulated by the letters of invitation and guarantees and U.S. President Bush's initiative—land for peace and the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This means Israeli withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian territory, including holy Jerusalem, and the realization of the Palestinian people's political rights.

Therefore, I can understand Rabin's call to change the Palestinian leadership because he hopes to find what he has been searching for, but to no avail. Our people are determined to continue their jihad and struggle until the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem's walls, churches, and mosques.

What I cannot understand, however, is Iran's attempts to interfere in Palestinian affairs and its financial aid to, and deals with, some Palestinian organizations, as in the recent case with Hamas and al-Sukafi [not further identified]. It is regrettable that certain Arab parties are involved in such a thing. Everybody knows that such attempts have been surpassed by time and events. Our people, as I have said, reject custodianship and subordination, regardless where they come from, Arab or foreign. I say to the Iranian officials: He who drops the word jihad at the Islamic summit in Dakar does not have the right to speak about jihad in Palestine. Our people's response to this strange onslaught is further firmness, escalation of the intifadah, and genuine jihad until the attainment of victory. We will, without doubt, help our agnates and those who believe, both in this world's life and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth. [Koranic verse]

[AKHBAR AL-USBU'] Have you decided to go to the next round of talks in Washington? Is there any intention to hold a popular Palestinian conference?

['Arafat] The final Palestinian position over the next round has not been crystallized yet. The decision will be made when the Palestinian leadership completes its contacts and consultations with various Arab and international parties, as well as with the popular Palestinian parties. There was a plan to hold a popular Palestinian meeting and to invite elected representatives from all popular forces in our occupied territories. It has been decided, however, to postpone the meeting until further notice and until we complete our current contacts on all levels and in all directions. With the cosponsors, the UN Security Council permanent members, the Arab states, European countries, China, Japan, the Muslim states, the Nonaligned countries, the Jerusalem Committee, and the Nine-Member Committee. If needed, we will call for a UN Security Council meeting in order to put each and every one before his responsibility vis-a-vis Israeli procrastination and the dilemma into which Rabin has pushed the talks, particularly on the Palestinian track. Let everyone know that they will never find any one prepared to relinquish a grain of soil in Palestine or Jerusalem. If God helps you, no one can overcome you. [Koranic verse]

Comments on Talks, Hamas, Iran

JN3011101392 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 30 Nov 92 p 12

[Interview with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat by Sa'd al-Bazzaz in Tunis on 26 November]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Bazzaz] How do you view things with regard to Palestinian rights? What can the Palestinians possibly achieve by the end of the century? What are they going to win in light of the difficult and complicated circumstances you have just described?

['Arafat] As I have said, the U.S. soldier who controls the oil wells no longer needs an Israeli proxy to protect this oil on his behalf. This does not mean that Israel has lost its weight in the eyes of the West, particularly in the eyes of the United States. But after the end of World War III [as published], Israel lost its importance in the conflict between the two giant poles. When one of the two poles disappeared, the Israeli mission in this regard also ended and its second mission was diminished. We understand the U.S. assurances offered by Bush to guarantee Israel's military superiority in the light of these facts, in addition to Israel's own insistence on this because it is aware of the truth. This is why it asked for the U.S. guarantees when Bush needed the Israelis during the election battle to ensure its military superiority in the next stage. But this is governed by all factors of the conflict. Israel knows, and the rulers of Zion also know, that although the former Soviet Union had a great nuclear arsenal, it ceased to be one of the two superpowers in the world. The Israelis know that if a just peace that takes into consideration the central cause of the Arab nation, the Palestinian cause, is not achieved in the Middle East, then there will be no peace, even if progress was made on

other Arab tracks. The region will then witness a balkanization, similar to what is happening in Yugoslavia. Military superiority will not be of use to Israel, since it was of no use to the Soviet Union and did not prevent its collapse. Hence, the hope I see for Palestinians, because the Palestinians must be given something to satisfy them.

[Al-Bazzaz] Something? (I interrupted the president)

['Arafat] Yes, something, and I am being very precise. Oh, yes something. So far, they have been saying no to an independent state. But they say yes to a confederation with Jordan. In 1983, we made a decision at the National Council to set up a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation between the Jordanian and Palestinian states in accordance with a voluntary and free choice by the two fraternal peoples. By the end of this century, the Palestinians will have attained something: an independent state or a state within a confederation with Jordan in accordance with a free and voluntary choice of the two peoples. Any development will be followed by consequences. This is because if a state is established, many positive or negative developments will take place. This depends on who will bring about this development. Will it be achieved through an Israeli-U.S. formula or will it be achieved by an Arab will?

[Al-Bazzaz] By whose will, do you think?

['Arafat] I am optimistic that it will be by an Arab will.

[Al-Bazzaz] You are greatly concerned with the change in the U.S. Administration and what will happen in the transition period. Do you expect Palestinian-U.S. dialogue to be restored after the election of Bill Clinton?

['Arafat] We call for restoring Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. We are asking for a right, not begging for it. We are asking for this right now from the Bush administration before it leaves. This is our right. Last year, the United States sought to make many countries recognize Israel. It would have been better for the United States to restore dialogue with a major party of the equation. Otherwise, the United States would be an unfair broker, and this would have negative consequences on the entire peace process. This would also mean that the United States is biased in form and content. We realize that the United States has a distinguished relationship with the Israelis and that it is trying to implement international legitimacy using double standards, a standard against the Arabs, and another for the Israelis. But I am talking about future equations, because no political equation can remain the same over a long period of time. This is against the nature of things, against logic, and against history.

[Al-Bazzaz] How do you assess the recent meetings of the leaders of the Palestinian factions in Tunis on the forthcoming stage of the peace process?

['Arafat] We postponed a decision until we complete our Arab and Islamic contacts, especially since the year set for holding these negotiations, as stipulated in the letter of invitation and the letter of guarantees expired on 30 October 1992. We have the right to study what has taken place, particularly that we did not achieve any results worth mentioning on the Palestinian track. For us, the upshot has been zero. We have the right, therefore, to review our stand from all its aspects after we complete our contacts. There will be a meeting at the United Nations on the Palestinian cause on 29 November, the day of international solidarity with Palestine. This will be an occasion to submit the issue to the United Nations. An Islamic foreign ministers' meeting will be held on 1 December on Bosnia-Hercegovina, and the Jerusalem issue will be discussed, an issue which the Israelis seek to obscure by insisting that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of greater Israel. The Palestinian leadership decided to remain in session, and that's why the Palestinian side, as yet, has not given its reply on its attendance of the next session of talks.

[Al-Bazzaz] Do you think that the summit called by Morocco will convene?

['Arafat] I hope that His Majesty King Hassan will succeed in his endeavor, despite the fact that it is a difficult task.

[Al-Bazzaz] Is it true that you directly, or through a third party asked to visit Saudi Arabia, and that the Saudis declined to welcome you?

['Arafat] Nothing of the sort took place.

[Al-Bazzaz] What about the meeting that, according to reports, could be held at the highest levels between you and the Israelis within the refugees committee in Tunis?

['Arafat] This meeting will be the fourth and will be held in September 1993, if the talks continue. As you know, the talks were not scheduled to last more than one year. Now, we have exceeded this year. The Americans committed themselves to that period in the letter of guarantees and the invitation. Therefore, we do not agree that we should give a reply now, and, in any case, we are not going to offer any concessions either with respect to our rights, or our holy places, particularly Jerusalem.

[Al-Bazzaz] How do you describe your relations with Jordan?

['Arafat] They are really good relations, and there is constant coordination on all levels. We are eager to carry out coordination to void the Israeli maneuvers.

[Al-Bazzaz] How is your health condition after the plane accident and the ensuing complications?

['Arafat] The signs are still there. But, praise be to God for everything. The doctors still have reservations about my travelling long distances by car. You remember that I wanted to visit Iraq from Amman when I became aware of the problems which forced me to enter hospital. His Majesty King Husayn intervened to convince me to undergo surgery. After the surgery, I wanted to travel to

Iraq but the doctors prevented me from undertaking a 10-hour car journey. I really look forward to visiting Baghdad in order to greet my brother President Saddam Husayn, my brothers in the Iraqi leadership, and our steadfast people in Baghdad, the symbol of steadfastness, and Iraq, the symbol of challenge.

[Al-Bazzaz] Did you define the mission of the Palestinian delegation which met Mitterrand in Jerusalem?

['Arafat] Yes. We discussed this subject during the meeting of the Palestinian leadership. We also entrusted the delegation with conveying a message from the leadership on the status of the Palestinian dimension of the talks. We asked the delegation to call on France to assume its role in its capacity as a permanent member of the Security Council, and also because it has an effective role in the EC, has an interest in the region, and is a Mediterranean state. We note with satisfaction Mitterrand's announcement that the PLO cannot, in any way, be ignored in the Middle East issue.

[Al-Bazzaz] Your excellency the president: What is Hamas doing in Iran and why were offices opened for it in Tehran?

['Arafat] These are the Zulu tribes. Neither me nor my people can tolerate Arab interference, how can we then tolerate Persian interference in our people's cause? I would like to say to Iran's rulers who concluded an agreement with Hamas, that those who abandoned the slogan of jihad in the Islamic summit in Dakar have no right to speak about jihad in Palestine. The rulers of Iran should remember well the role of the Palestinian revolution in the success of their revolution. They now forget this role, and Fatah's role in particular. They are reciprocating the good thing with a bad thing.

[Al-Bazzaz] Does the possibility of an Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon still exist?

['Arafat] This possibility still exists although there was a retreat after Bush's call for self-restraint. Rabin revealed this when he said that everyone must respect the rules of the game and that he is not against operations in the border strip provided they are not carried out inside Israel. I want to ask: Are these really the rules of the game? [passage omitted]

Algeria

Prime Minister Charges FIS With 'Terrorism'

LD2811230592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1928 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Speech by Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam at meeting with provincial governors and security officials in Algiers on 28 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. After several hours of debate on the security situation in the Algiers area with the brothers in charge of the provinces in this area, I would like to take the opportunity at the end of this meeting to say a few words about the security situation we are currently facing. [passage omitted]

The law stipulated that those who had committed offenses of murder or crimes causing harm to individuals should be allowed by the state to return to their normal lives without being pursued by the state in any way whatsoever. If they had committed crimes, their punishment would be reduced. The two-month amnesty period is about to expire. It ends next week, on 4 December, to be precise. [passage omitted]

After this two-month period, additional measures must be taken to enable the security forces to carry out their duty and put pressure on the saboteurs and criminals who have now become known to everyone. [passage omitted]

I think it is now clear to people that these acts of sabotage and terrorism are in fact being perpetrated under the banner of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, the so-called FIS. This is a fact which everyone now acknowledges, because evidence has been produced which shows that this front was aiming to destroy the state of Algeria and set up a system that would serve interests which had no relevance to those of the Algerian people.

This fact, then, is now public knowledge, and we have to continue our work until we come to a conclusion in this regard that would mean the destruction of this terrorist and destructive network which is now active in the country.

On the one hand, we have to dismantle the structure on which the the depends and expose, through past and present operations, the bodies which had in the past been working under the FIS leadership or under its guise, in one form or another, and which have now become known supporting the work of these saboteurs. These include the municipal popular councils, the provincial popular councils, some of the trade union organizations which call themselves the Islamic labor leagues and even some of the charitable, cultural or religious associations.

All of these have become like a spider's web spread all across the country allowing these saboteurs to find something to use as logistical support, all over the country, so that they can continue their work.

For this reason, I have the last few days taken the decision, and issued clear instructions in this regard, that the existing popular councils in the provinces or the municipalities, which have now become known to be mere fronts for terrorism and sabotage, to be dissolved immediately.

I have also ordered the dissolution of the so-called Islamic labor leagues, which were collectively organized under the FIS, because these leagues, more than any other organizations, are the ones providing cover for sabotage and terrorism.

I have also given special instructions that the necessary measures should be taken regarding everything relating to propaganda and publications. Everything published containing subversive ideas should be confiscated and those who write, print or publish such material should be brought before the law.

The minister of interior, the local authorities, the minister of labor and social affairs and the minister of culture and communications have all received orders to put the government's decision in this area into effect and allow sufficient time for the work of the security forces to be continued and extended to the vital areas of the country. [passage omitted]

Perhaps these measures might somewhat inconvenience people or restrict their freedom, but we believe this is necessary because we are obliged to continue this work and not allow these people to get their breath back. The state and its forces must go on the attack. [passage omitted]

The Algerian people and the Algerian nation are now facing a threat or an enemy of a different kind. It is an internal threat, a deep-seated internal problem. If the Algerian people and state, by the efforts of their own sons, soldiers and policemen, come out of this victorious, we believe that the Algerian nation can show, for a second time in our history, that it is a sound nation and that its state is a respectful and strong one. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Interviewed on Current Issues

LD2911235792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1945 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Interview with Algerian Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam by correspondents Said Brahimi and Fouzia Dadi after the meeting with provincial governors and security officials in Algiers on 28 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [correspondent] [passage indistinct] A lot has been said about your latest meeting with journalists, including remarks about the issue of the independent

press. Could you tell us whether this was a simple misunderstanding of what you have said, or is it something else?

[Abdesselam] It was an answer to a question, and I think that the question is in fact posed in the political scene. There is a public press belonging to the public sector and there is a private press. I think that journalists, whether they are in the private or public press, can be independent as far as their views are concerned. As regards the newspaper as an enterprise, it belongs to the people who finance it. This is not wrong, but it is a fact that should be made known. We could not hide obvious facts. Some people say they are independent when in fact they are being financed by others. Fair enough, you are independent from the state, but you are not independent from other parties. Some people see this as an attack. This is an issue I raised.

Now, how people behave in their relations with those who finance them is a different matter. This does not mean that all the journalists who work in these private enterprises are traitors. This is not right. Some known newspapers, in order to gain more customers and readers, resort to scandal, or sensational headlines. They try to get information about the work of the state in order to publish scoops aimed at attracting more people. [Word indistinct] use these means, and I stand by what I said about this issue. I stand by what I said about those people who resort to such ways to gain more readers at the expense of others. This does not mean that all people resort to these means. There are in fact those who belong to the private sector, who are honest, and who have their independence. At times, there are people who are independent even from their own bosses and directors. This does not mean, however, that the people I talked about...I think that we know each other. They are going along with a policy and following a plan. I think that they have links based on interests or other things.

When I see some views coming from overseas or views transmitted or spread overseas, they are convenient to tendencies already existing here. This might lead me to think that there is a link, a relation, an alliance, between some people here and people abroad. Right now, as concerns security, politics, and the economy, we are in the middle of a fateful battle in this country. We need to mobilize all our forces for the benefit of the whole nation, not for the benefit of this or that person. Should the nation not mobilize behind its leadership in battles like this, it cannot succeed. I wonder, when the we are deals blows from over there, and others here echo them, whether these people are being paid by the people whose ideas they are supporting. This question is put to public opinion, and as far as it is concerned, I stand by what I said. [passage omitted]

You have asked me about last week's television interview, and I would like to take this opportunity to say that I spoke and somehow touched upon—because the question was posed to me—the question of the assassination of the late Boudiaf, may God bless his soul. I did not have any side in mind, but I spoke about a situation where some people want to exploit his name and the circumstances of his death for political or other purposes. But I did not have any particular persons in mind, and I would not want or try to cover up or play down the problems regarding the investigation underway on his assassination. These questions do not come under my jurisdiction, and I do not have much right to speak about them, but I have given a few pieces of information. As you know, God willing, the national committee now investigating this will give its report and indicate what it has done. [passage omitted]

There might be other things. Your questions will lead us a long way. If you want me to go back to this subject then we might go a long way. There are other people who say I have talked about devaluation of the dinar, which this government has saved us from, or about price rises. This is a fact because the IMF has put this conditions to us, to the Algerian state.

There are some loans that Algeria was granted in the past with the IMF's approval. In other words, loans were obtained with the IMF's approval. The payment of the last installments of these loans depends on a new agreement with the IMF. They are saying if you do not sign a new agreement with the IMF then you will not even benefit from the past loans granted to you by virtue of the June 1991 agreement, nor will you benefit in other ways. This is tantamount to pressure. We are still subjected to this pressure. I do not wish to go into all the details in these matters. Even at the bank, the leadership in charge last summer anticipated this devaluation. Consequently, some products were sold on the national market with a premature implementation of a 50 percent reduction of the value of the dinar in relation to the U.S. dollar. Others say no, the expected reduction was 30 percent and not 50 percent.

These people are playing on words. In reality, the U.S. dollar is now worth about 22 dinars. The new rate the IMF was demanding for the U.S. dollar is 33 dinars. That is a difference of 11 dinars between 22 and 33. Eleven dinars is 50 percent of 22. With the new rate of 33, 11 dinars is about 30 percent. In other words, people are playing on words.

Let us look at reality. I am looking at reality as seen by the Algerian citizen: yesterday he was paying 22 dinars to obtain one U.S. dollar. Today they are asking him for 33 dinars, in other words an extra 50 percent. This is how I understand it. If the technicians want to play with the figures, this is another matter. I go for what is clear: we have to go from 22 dinars to 33 dinars, give or take half a dinar, but this is reality.

People should not play on words and try to put people or officials against one another. They want to create a quarrel between myself and former Prime Minister Ghozali, who is not only the former prime minister but also a brother. Everybody was involved in these own problems. The people who play this game are not serving

the country's interest. The country's interest requires us all to be mobilized to find ways of facing the problems our country is battling—to enable our country to solve these problems. This is the correct position. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Concerning the security aspect that we consider by far the most important, you spoke about future measures beyond the end of the 4 December period. It has been recently established, however, that some outside forces support acts of sabotage inside the country. Will any special measures be taken about this?

[Abdessalam] What I spoke of were domestic measures. Concerning the outside, as you know, we are following the situation. Each time we verify facts, we draw a conclusion and adopt the stands necessary concerning those foreign countries that support the people who are sabotaging our internal security. I think that in this respect we do not bow to any pressure regardless of interests. Internal and state security come before anything else, even if that calls for sacrificing certain material interests. Foreign countries have to understand that free play with our destiny and freedom is neither acceptable nor subject to bargaining.

Egypt

Contacts With U.S. on Islamist Leader 'Failed'

NC2811190992 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Nov 92 p 13

[Report by 'Amr al-Khayyat]

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has announced that the Foreign Ministry fully knows all the terrorists inside and outside Egypt who are seeking to shake the country's stability and carry out subversive acts of revenge against the government and the ruling regime. He disclosed that Egypt had diplomatic contacts with the United States concerning [Islamist leader] 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who resides in the United States, but failed to attain positive results. In a statement to the People's Assembly's Legislative and Constitutional Committee meeting chaired by Dr. Fawziyah 'Abd-al-Sattar yesterday, Musa said that 'Umar 'Abd- al-Rahman collects donations in the United States and sends them to his group in Egypt. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To 'Welcome' Leader

NC2811114292 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Nov 92 p 3

["Words" column by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad]

[Text] After arresting Bastawi 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-al-Majd, a member of the group that shot at the tourist bus in Qina, it was expected at any time that the security authorities would arrest the remaining four members of the group. In fact, they were arrested the day before yesterday [24 November] in Alexandria. Who are these people who wish to kill tourists, destroy tourism, shatter security, prepare to take over power, and set up an Islamic government in a country with a population of nearly 60 million?

They are a student at the Technical Trade College (22 years old), another at the Agricultural High School (20 years old), a third at the Industrial High School (19 years old), and one person with a technical diploma (20 years old).

These youths, who have a limited education and who are satisfied with an intermediate level of agricultural and industrial training, have preoccupied public opinion in Egypt and abroad. News agencies have been reporting extensively about their criminal acts of shooting at tourists who come to Egypt from all corners of the globe with the objective of an innocent visit. These are the vanguard of the new political action that is preparing to take control and resolve the country's problems.

It is said that these are the students and followers of the awaited leader and chief, the blind Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, to whom the United States has opened its doors in welcome, allowing him to practice his religious political activities without any restriction. We hear him telling foreigners not to travel to Egypt, threatening to kill its president and other leaders, and saying that the future of Egypt belongs to the extremists, who soon will take over power from the usurping and aggressive rulers who now control it. This is what he told a British journalist who recently visited him at his New York City residence.

The British journalist says that the new Egyptian leader and imam, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, releases tapes of his lectures, in which he calls for toppling the regime in Egypt. He compares himself to Khomeyni, who was hosted by France. As for Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, he is hosted by the United States, the beacon and vanguard of the new world order. The United States does not seem to realize that among the principles of its new world order are murder, shedding the blood of innocent people, and inciting misguided youths and youngsters with limited education to destroy the homeland, ruin its economy, and distort its reputation.

This Egyptian neo-Khomeyni claims to be the awaited caliph and the guardian of the Islamic state in Sudan and Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria. He lives the life of a mujahidin political leader seeking asylum in the land of freedom and human rights, the United States, in the harbor of which towers the Statue of Liberty, beckoning arrivals from around the world to be guided by the flame of freedom and to indulge in butter and honey at the expense of the blood of innocent people, which is shed by the students of Shaykh 'Umar and his followers in the land of Qina and Luxor.

Islamist Leader Outlines Demands

NC2711212392 Paris AFP in English 2020 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, Nov 27 (AFP)—The leader of an underground Muslim fundamentalist group that is fighting the government has said it is ready to end confrontation when the government enters into a dialogue and frees its detained militants.

Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who lives in exile in New York and is blind, also denied in the opposition AL-SHA'B newspaper Friday that his al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group had ordered attacks on foreign tourists.

"The confrontation can end the day when the government and the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah sit at the negotiations table," he said in the interview.

The confrontation can also be over "once the police changes its attitude towards Islamic militants" and frees those detained in jail, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman said.

He denied having issued a fatwa, or religious decree, authorising fundamentalists to "open fire on tourists or attack them in any other way." Detainees who said that did so "under torture."

"The (Egyptian) security services resort to all sorts of physical and psychological torture to obtain false testimony," Shaykh 'Abd- al-Rahman said.

"The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah will call off its anti-government action when the authorities agree to our demands," he added.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman was implicated in the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat in October 1981 but acquitted.

Government newspapers reported Friday that Egypt was planning to call for Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman's extradition on charges of inciting fundamentalists to attack tourists.

British tourist Sharon Hill was killed in October in southern Egypt, a fundamentalist stronghold, and 20 other holidaymakers have been injured in attacks by Muslim militants.

Tourism, a pillar of the country's economy which brought in three billion dollars this year, has since the attacks recorded a 10-30 percent drop in bookings.

A spokesman for the al-Jama'ah told AFP on Tuesday that Muslim fundamentalists will keep up their attacks on tourism in Egypt because of its "corrupting" influence.

The 27-year-old university graduate known by the nom-de-guerre of Shaykh Hasan said he awaited instructions on the strategy to combat tourism from the "supreme leadership."

Somali Leader Welcomes U.S. Offer of Troops

NC2811121492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1134 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received Muhammad Abshir, head of the Somali Democratic National Salvation Front.

Mr. Abshir stated that during the meeting they discussed the developments in the current Somali crisis. He said he thanked Egypt for its role in helping Somalia find a way out of its crisis.

He welcomed Egypt's proposal to convene a national reconciliation conference in Somalia. Abshar welcomed the U.S. announcement that it is ready to send troops to Somalia. He said that sending these troops comes late and that his Front had hoped the Arab countries would take the initiative and send troops instead of the Americans.

Saudi Foreign Minister Leads Delegation Visit

Makes Statement on Arrival

NC2811175992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1649 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived here this evening on a two-day visit to Egypt during which he will lead his country's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Saudi joint committee, which will open tomorrow.

In an arrival statement, the Saudi minister said that he is seizing this opportunity to express his condolences to the Egyptian people over the earthquake disaster that hit the country, noting that the Arab and Islamic nations are standing beside the Egyptian people. Al-Faysal praised the Egyptian people's stand and their solidarity with their leaders during these circumstances, which enhanced Egypt's standing worldwide. The Saudi foreign minister added that he will meet tomorrow with President Husni Mubarak to convey greetings from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. He said his visit comes within the framework of the meetings of the Egyptian-Saudi joint committee and will involve a series of much-anticipated meetings with the brothers in Egypt in a bid to set up a permanent edifice, whether in terms of political coordination or economic, social, and cultural cooperation. He added: The committee has had successes in these domains, which we are happy with, and we look forward to having more.

In response to a question about the Damascus Declaration, the Saudi foreign minister noted that the Doha meeting [of the foreign ministers of the declaration's member-states] provides a suitable answer to any doubts cast on this declaration, which was concluded as a result of a historic stand that demonstrated the cohesiveness of the Arab nation. He said he hopes the declaration will be ideal for the future of inter-Arab relations, since it

involves all aspects related to the Arab destiny. The Saudi foreign minister said that the political problems facing the Damascus Declaration have been discussed and that the declaration deals with the situation between the Arab nation and Iran. He mentioned the Arab League statement [not further identified], noting that it was based on the Doha statement.

Regarding the meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers to be held in Jeddah on Tuesday, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said the purpose of the meeting is to reach a collective stand by the Islamic states, particularly with respect to the Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina, and to consolidate the concept of legitimacy, since Bosnia-Hercegovina is a UN member. He said he hopes the conferees will come out with a solid stand regarding the Serbian aggression.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the airport, welcomed the Saudi guest and said that the Egyptian-Saudi joint committee meetings reflect the existing Saudi-Egyptian cooperation and the serious endeavors to keep it up. He said a statement on the committee proceedings will be made public tomorrow, adding that the committee will discuss all aspects, particularly political and economic issues.

Discusses Ties With 'Amr Musa

NC2811195392 Cairo MENA in English 1910 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 28 (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa conferred Saturday evening with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, on issues of mutual interest on the regional and international scenes, within the context of bilateral coordination.

The two ministers reviewed issues to be discussed at the emergency meeting of Islamic foreign ministers, to start in Jeddah, Tuesday.

They further dealt with the points to be explored at the Egyptian-Saudi joint committee, to start Sunday.

Ministers Comment After Talks

NC2811220092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2034 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal has said that Iran's attempts to interfere in other countries' internal affairs under the cloak of Islam are unacceptable.

After a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening, he noted that resolutions have been issued by Arab and Gulf Cooperation Council summits calling for cooperative ties among the Islamic countries and rejecting intervention in internal affairs.

He said that he discussed with 'Amr Musa the situation in Bosnia- Hercegovina, an issue of special concern to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and President Husni Mubarak. He added that this issue will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, which Cyrus Vance and representatives from Europe and the United Nations will (?attend) to discuss the same issue.

Commenting on the obstacles to implementing the Damascus Declaration, he said the clear Doha statement asserted the continuation of work according to the principles of the Damascus Declaration. He added: We do not believe that the declaration is annulled; rather it actively contributes to the Arab nation in general, not just the eight member-states. He asserted that the eight countries still support this declaration's principles and bases.

Foreign Minister Musa said the Egyptian-Saudi joint committee meetings starting tomorrow aim to boost bilateral relations in various fields. He added that he discussed with the Saudi foreign minister several political issues of particular concern to the Islamic world in the run up to the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Jeddah on 1 December, adding that they exchanged views on the situation in the Arab world and the Gulf region.

Ministers Address Committee Meeting

NC2911083292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0729 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—The fifth round of the Egyptian-Saudi Joint Committee meetings began this morning. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal led the Egyptian and Saudi sides to the meetings. Present on the Egyptian side were Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation. On the Saudi side, the round of talks was attended by Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa delivered a speech at the start of the talks. He praised the relations between the two countries, stressing that the committee achieved important results during its fourth round. He also commended the fruitful discussions conducted by the preparatory committee. Musa noted that each round of talks should have its own goal so it can serve as a staging point for promoting bilateral relations.

The Saudi minister voiced his thanks for the hospitality accorded him and his delegation in Egypt. He said his talks with Foreign Minister Musa yesterday dealt with issues concerning the two countries and the Arab nation. He affirmed that the two sides hold identical views concerning all issues discussed.

The committee will discuss ways to bolster bilateral political, economic, trade, cultural, transportation, communications, and electricity relations.

Committee Issues Final Statement

NC2911115992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1080 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Egypt and Saudi Arabia have reiterated their adherence to and support for efforts to achieve just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, foremost being UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace to ensure the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the liberation of all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

In the final statement issued at the conclusion of the fifth session of the Egyptian-Saudi Joint Committee today under the chairmanship of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the two sides denounced the continued Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the deliberate escalation undertaken by Israel to embarrass the Lebanese Government and neutralize its ability to continue its efforts to achieve national reconciliation and spread the legitimate authority over all Lebanese territory.

The two sides renewed their call on Israel to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 fully and unconditionally and affirmed their solidarity with the Lebanese Government and their material and moral support for its efforts to rebuild Lebanon and its institutions, which can spread the authority of Lebanese legitimacy over all Lebanese territory.

The Egyptian-Saudi committee affirmed in its final statement the two countries' commitment to fully implementing all the Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and their eagerness to maintain Iraq's independence, unity, and territorial integrity.

The statement also denounced the savage actions of Serbia's and Montenegro's forces against the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina as serious violations of the UN Charter, international law, and the human rights convention.

The statement affirmed Egypt's and Saudi Arabia's determination to work together during the sixth extraordinary foreign ministers meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization, which will be held in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, to promote the adoption of positions and resolutions expressing full solidarity and total support by the Islamic states for Bosnia-Hercegovina in its just struggle to maintain its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. These positions and resolutions also should contribute to the international community's and the Security Council's shouldering of their full responsibility according to Chapter 7 of the UN Charter to stop the Serbian aggression and respect the independence, unity, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The two sides affirmed their solidarity with and support for Somalia in its ordeal and appealed to all the warring factions in Somalia to put national interests above all other interests and to work to achieve national reconciliation through a national reconciliation conference in order to stop the bloodshed and safeguard the country's independence and freedom.

The Egyptian-Saudi Joint Committee's final statement praised the serious and objective Arab positions adopted during the Arab participation in the peace process cosponsored by the United States and Russia. The Saudi side expressed special appreciation for Egypt's efforts to overcome the obstacles which faced the peace process due to Israel's intransigent positions and arbitrary actions against the Palestinian people. The two sides expressed hope that essential progress will be made in the peace negotiations to crown these efforts with success.

The statement affirmed the determination of the two countries to proceed with developing economic, trade, and investment cooperation and expressed their appreciation for the results achieved by the first conference of Saudi and Egyptian businessmen. The two countries expressed their satisfaction with the recommendations of this conference, including those pertaining to the establishment of joint companies by businessmen from the two countries. They regarded the recommendations as a positive contribution to the development of distinctive relations between the two fraternal countries.

Within the framework of bilateral economic, trade, and investment cooperation, meetings were held between ministers from the two countries taking part in the fifth session to discuss various aspects of bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them.

A technical cooperation agreement was signed between the Saudi and Egyptian Agriculture Ministries on veterinary services and animal health.

The joint committee also reviewed aspects of cooperation in the fields of health, transportation, telecommunications, culture, information, youth and sports, and manpower.

The committee welcomed the measures taken by Saudi authorities to equip and operate Duba Port [placename as received] prior to the next pilgrimage season.

The Saudi side expressed its sincere sympathy to the fraternal Egyptian people for the tragic earthquake that hit Egypt.

Mubarak, Saudis Discuss Iran

NC2911130392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak at noon today received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who currently is visiting Cairo, at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis. The meeting was

attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Saudi Finance Minister Muhammad Abu-al-Khayl; Muhammad Fathi al- Shadhili, Egyptian ambassador to Saudi Arabia; and As'ad Abu-al- Nasr, Saudi Ambassador to Egypt.

In a statement to newsmen after the meeting, the Saudi foreign minister expressed his appreciation for President Mubarak receiving him today. He said: My delegation and I were honored to meet His Excellency President Mubarak. We conveyed greetings to him from his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his best wishes to him. We also briefed President Mubarak about the results of the meetings of the Egyptian-Saudi Joint Committee, which made good progress regarding bilateral cooperation.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: We are making good progress in developing our bilateral relations. We also listened to President Mubarak's guidance, which I will convey to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Asked about the Egyptian and Saudi positions on Iran's activity, which aims at undermining security and stability in the region, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: We discussed the political situation in general and all the issues in our region. We also discussed relations between neighbors, which are important, particularly with a state like Iran.

He pointed out that Egypt and Saudi Arabia hope that relations with Iran will not be based on suspicion, but on mutual confidence and respect.

The Saudi foreign minister added that this subject was discussed at the Gulf Cooperation Council summit conference and other Gulf states' meetings. Saudi Arabia hopes relations will exist at this level of seriousness and mutual respect.

Foreign Minister Musa said after the meeting that at the instructions of President Mubarak, we will cooperate together at the Islamic ministerial conference, which will be held tomorrow [as received] in Jeddah to discuss the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue.

He said: We presented a report to President Mubarak on the results of the Egyptian-Saudi Joint Committee meeting and the discussion of the situation in the region and the Islamic world in general.

Answering a question on the most significant signs of progress in Egyptian-Saudi cooperation, Musa said that the issues of economic integration and political coordination top the list. There also is cooperation in the commercial, industrial, and scientific research fields. He noted that there are 13 fields of cooperation in trade alone. He added that there are other fields of cooperation between the two countries in maritime transportation, telecommunications, and electricity affairs.

Saudi Foreign Minister Departs

NC2911140392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Cairo today following a two-day visit to Egypt, during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. The Saudi minister took part in the Egyptian-Saudi Joint Committee's meetings.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa saw the Saudi minister off at the airport. [passage omitted]

Croatian Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Arrives 27 Nov

NC2811140392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—Croatian Foreign Minister Zdenko Skrabalo arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit of a few days to Egypt. The Croatian minister will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on bilateral relations and the latest developments in former Yugoslavia.

The Croatian foreign minister later will go to Saudi Arabia to attend the emergency Islamic Conference Organization meeting that will be held there on Tuesday [1 December] to discuss the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Comments After Meeting 'Amr Musa

NC2811141392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1250 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with the Croatian foreign minister, who currently is visiting Cairo. Speaking after the meeting, the Croatian minister said they discussed the developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina in light of the ongoing fighting there as well as the current efforts to end it. He added that he had come to Egypt to discuss the matter prior to the Islamic foreign ministers meeting scheduled to be held Tuesday in Jeddah, during which the situation there will be examined. He pointed out that a regional meeting had been held in Turkey to discuss the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Croatian foreign minister noted that the United Nations had passed several cease-fire resolutions, but these were not put into practice. He stressed the need to implement these resolutions.

Regarding the Islamic states' demand to apply UN Article 51 against the Serbs, the Croatian minister noted that all means must be used to end the aggressive acts against Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Croatian foreign minister praised the strong relations between Egypt and Croatia, noting that a Croatian embassy in Egypt and an Egyptian embassy in Croatia will be opened. An agreement for boosting economic and trade cooperation between the two countries also will be signed, he added.

Comments on Meeting With Mubarak

NC2911123092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received Croatian Foreign Minister Zdenko Skrabalo, who currently is visiting Cairo, at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis.

In a statement after the meeting, the Croatian minister said that he conveyed a written message from Croatian President Franjo Tdjman dealing with his country's policies and its need for help and support from Egypt. He said President Tdjman invited President Mubarak to visit Croatia at his earliest convenience.

The Croatian foreign minister expressed thanks to President Mubarak for the meeting, which he described as excellent.

He said Croatia was a major trade partner with Egypt when Croatia was one of the former republics of Yugoslavia. We are interested in continuing this cooperation and we agreed that an Egyptian economic delegation will visit Croatia soon because there are bright prospects for the reconstruction of the country, he added.

The Croatian foreign minister said that he attended a regional conference for South Asia and Europe held in Istanbul and that the conference issued a declaration urging the international community to stop the war raging in Yugoslavia and to adopt the necessary measures in this regard.

Continuing his statement, the Croatian minister said: We have come to Egypt to ask for support and help, and we are convinced that Egypt and Turkey can play an extremely important role. He expressed hope that the Islamic Conference Organization will issue a decision urging the United Nations and the international community to stop the war and prevent the spread of fighting to South Asia, Europe, the neighboring countries, and parts of former Yugoslavia.

Departs 29 Nov

NC2911161292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1516 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Croatian Foreign Minister Zdenko Skrabalo left Cairo this afternoon following a two-day visit.

The Croatian minister was received by President Mubarak this morning and also held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and efforts to stop the ongoing fighting there.

Sudanese Envoy Delivers Message to Mubarak

NC2911150492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—At the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this morning, President Husni Mubarak received 'Izz-al-Din al-Sayyid, a personal envoy of 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation.

The Sudanese envoy handed the president a written message from Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir.

Following the meeting, Mr. 'Izz-al-Din al-Sayyid said he and President Mubarak discussed the contents of the Sudanese president's message as part of the continuous consultations between Egypt and Sudan over matters that concern both peoples. He said the message deals with bilateral relations and ways to bolster them as well as how to develop action in the various fields.

The Sudanese envoy was asked whether the message expresses Sudan's wish to improve bilateral relations and reflects the Sudanese leadership's good will toward Egypt. He said Sudan has always expressed its desire to improve relations with Egypt and has always worked to improve them. He said the president told him that he as well is working to improve relations.

Responding to another question, the Sudanese guest said visits continue between the two countries. We are trying to upgrade the level of these visits to strengthen bilateral relations, he said.

Asked whether the message deals with the Hala'ib issue, he said the matter is being discussed by a special bilateral committee that has agreed not to make any statement on the issue until a final solution has been reached. He added, however, that he does not believe that the issue represents a problem because bilateral relations can rise above it.

'Izz-al-Din added: In relation to the historic fraternal relations linking the people and the leaders of the two countries, this is a trivial issue. We prefer not to comment on it, he added. He pointed out that the committee in charge of Hala'ib decided to resolve the issue through a fraternal dialogue. The first phase of that dialogue was held in Khartoum and the second in Cairo, he explained, adding that a frank, fraternal, and constructive dialogue was held. We hope the committee will find a final solution for this issue, he said.

Asked about President Mubarak's reply to al-Bashir's message and whether it involves any imminent steps on future bilateral relations, the Sudanese envoy said: I do not want to jump ahead of events and determine the form of these future steps.

The Sudanese envoy was asked about the possibility of establishing Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation in the fight against terrorism in light of reports that extremist training camps are located in Sudan. 'Izz-al-Din said: I

do not believe that there is any threat to Egypt's national security from Sudan. The opposite is more like it, he added. We and Egypt are in the same trench; we fought with Egypt in various battles and the Egyptian and Sudanese blood mixed in the same battlefields. It is inconceivable and absolutely out of the question for us to threaten Egypt's security, he said.

Replying to reporters' questions, the Sudanese envoy said: We in Sudan would never allow anyone, Sudanese or anyone else, to threaten Egypt's security from Sudanese territory.

He was asked if the Sudanese Government will arrest any terrorist coming to Egypt from Sudan. He replied: I have not heard of any such attempts [to cross to Egypt]. However, he added, the borders are open, as you know, and cover long distances without restriction. He said that there are common tribes on the borders which come and go as they wish and travel by camel. We do not try to restrict the movement of these tribes because they are in effect one tribe, which travels in convoys to sell camels in Egypt.

Responding to another question on Iran's military presence in Sudan, particularly in the sea port of Port Sudan, he said: There is absolutely no Iranian military presence on Sudanese territory. Let the papers publish what they want, but the truth is that there is no Iranian military presence in Sudan, he asserted.

Al-Bashir To Visit Cairo 'Soon'

NC3011104992 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1002 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Nov (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY has learned that Sudanese leader Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir will visit Egypt soon. The agency also learned that contacts are under way to set a date for this visit in light of al-Bashir's message, which Sudanese envoy Dr. 'Izz-al-Din al-Sayyid conveyed to President Husni Mubarak yesterday. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Front Said Supplying 'Extremist Elements'

NC2911150992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1247 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Al-Azhar Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq today received a delegation representing the leaders of the Sudanese National Democratic Grouping [SNDG] and representatives from southern Sudan.

The delegation reiterated the Sudanese people's support for and solidarity with the Egyptian Government and people in standing up to terrorism exported by Iran as well as support for Egypt's rejection of the approach that uses religion to harm the long-standing, historic relations linking the two peoples of the Nile valley through the practices of the ruling Islamic Front in Sudan.

The delegation members said that it has recently been determined that the Sudanese Islamic Front has supplied extremist elements in Upper Egypt with weapons and funds to shake Egypt's stability and security and damage its economy.

During the meeting, the delegation members said that the Islamic Front's government in Sudan has confiscated the rights of Arab and non-Arab countries in the African Islamic Center and turned them over to a university in which Iranian lecturers teach the Iranian approach of spreading terrorism in the region.

Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq reiterated that Islam rejects extremism and terrorism in the name of religion. He added that Islam calls for moderation and tolerance and asserted that relations between the peoples of the Nile Valley in Egypt and Sudan are eternal and strong.

Al-Baz Comments on Iranian 'Campaign'

NC3011105392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0819 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo this morning heading a delegation to London at the beginning of a tour that includes Britain and the United States.

Dr. al-Baz said that in London he will attend the meetings on Friday and Saturday of the multilateral talks steering committee. The objective of these meetings, he said, is to propel the multilateral talks forward by agreeing on a comprehensive scenario on how to manage the affairs of the various working groups during the coming stage.

He clarified that the Egyptian stand in this regard is to work on realizing tangible progress in the multilateral talks which are taking place in various capitals and which include subjects of regional cooperation and the refugees, security, disarmament, and water issues.

On his visit to Washington, Dr. al-Baz said he will attend a seminar at the Institute for Strategic Studies. He also will hold contacts with U.S. Administration officials on bilateral and international issues of interest to the two countries.

He said he soon will join the economic delegation currently in Washington for talks with IMF and World Bank officials. The delegation includes Central Bank Governor Dr. Salah Hamid; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for administrative development, and Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razaz.

On the escalation against Egypt by Iran in particular and some Arab countries in general, Dr. Usamah al-Baz said it is clear that this is a fabricated campaign which the Iranian regime is creating for no comprehensible reason except that it insists on imposing its hegemony over the Arab countries and interfering in the internal affairs of

Arab and Islamic countries under the cover of Islam and the Islamic revolution. He added that Egypt did no more than ask Iran to respect the sovereignty and freedom of the fraternal Arab countries in the Gulf region, not to impose control over them, and to stop intervening in the internal affairs of Arab and Islamic countries under any pretext so that balanced and healthy neighborly relations can be established between them.

He clarified that Iran's reaction was extreme, deviant, and incompatible with the positive tone President Mubarak used in his 14 November speech before the joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council.

He added that there is no explanation for this Iranian extremism and excessiveness, other than the fact that the Iranian Government wants single-handedly to control the Arab countries in the Gulf region so it can impose its hegemony over them. It does not want any country outside the Gulf region to side with these countries in confronting the strategic threats and dangers to which they are being subjected. Therefore, there is no explanation for this Iranian campaign except that it insists on interfering in the internal affairs of Arab and Islamic countries under the cover of the Islamic movement to threaten their security and shatter their stability.

Al-Baz affirmed that the Iranian Government must realize that it cannot continue along this course, which threatens pan-Arab security and the security of a number of individual Arab countries in the east and west at a time when some Arab countries want their relations with the major Arab countries to be strong. The Iranian Government must take a decisive stand and clearly indicate its choice.

On the Iranian regime's continuing threats to the Arab and Gulf countries, Dr. al-Baz said that this is rejected even if Iran insists on it in word and deed. We will confront it, not because we wish to create tension with any state or because we wish to enter into conflict—this goes against our policy—but because we want to preserve the basic rights of the Arab Islamic countries and protect Arab and Egyptian national security. This is the first of our duties, because Iran cannot violate the security of the Arab countries and then claim that it is being subjected to a campaign by the governments of these countries, which have decided to confront the plots aimed at interfering in their private affairs.

Al-Baz To Discuss Lockerbie Issues in London

NC3011115992 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1004 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Nov (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—[passage omitted] AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY has learned that Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, will hold very important talks in London with British officials on developments in the Lockerbie crisis and proposed methods for ending it on the basis of respect for resolutions of international legitimacy and Libyan sovereignty, especially in light of the tripartite warning the three sides gave to Libya that they will step up sanctions on Thursday.

Egyptian diplomatic sources said important contacts have taken place with Libya during the past two days to find a way out of the stalemate which efforts to end the crisis are facing.

Dr. al-Baz will hold talks in London on Thursday with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who will chair his country's delegation to the committee meeting on ways to bolster the peace process.

PLO's Sha'th Arrives; Assesses Mitterrand, Clinton

NC2811110392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0807 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has said that 'Arafat will visit Egypt before the beginning of the eighth round of peace talks, which is expected to convene 7 December in Washington.

In statements upon arriving in Cairo early this morning, Sha'th clarified that this visit is part of the coordination and discussion with President Husni Mubarak regarding the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the coming round of talks, and the results of the previous round.

Sha'th said that while in Cairo he will meet with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, to brief them on the results of the previous round of talks in view of the importance of Egypt's role in the bilateral and multilateral talks.

In his statements, Sha'th said he toured Belgium, the United States, and Norway. He clarified that in Brussels, he met with the Belgian foreign minister, whose country will head the European Community during the coming round, and briefed him on the results of the seventh round of peace talks.

He said he met with the Norwegian foreign minister in Oslo. Norway is hoping to play a role in the peace process, especially since it is the only Scandinavian country whose government is sympathetic to the Palestinians and their inalienable right to self-determination.

He added that the European Community cares a great deal about the question of Palestine, especially since Europe has been called on to play a greater positive role in the peace process through the December EC summit in Edinburgh.

He clarified that his talks in Cairo will focus on the possibility of Egypt playing a more influential role in urging Europe to participate more positively during the

coming stage of the peace process and in asking it to appoint a European commissioner who will play a firm and continuous role in the peace process.

Sha'th expressed hope that this European commissioner will have influence and importance and that the United States will accept his presence as a European representative and additional sponsor of the peace process. He pointed out that this will not decrease the effectiveness of the U.S. role, but will bolster it, especially during the transitional stage.

Dr. Sha'th said that Europe actually has started taking action to play a role in the peace conference. This was confirmed through French President Francois Mitterrand's recent visit to Israel to maintain efforts in the peace process.

He praised President Mitterrand's statements in Israel, in which he affirmed that the right of the Palestinian people to a state stems from partition Resolution 181 of 1948, which stipulated the establishment of one Palestinian state and another Israeli state. Therefore, the resolution to establish a Palestinian state is not a new one, but is as old as the State of Israel itself.

He also praised Mitterrand's assertion that Israel needs to negotiate with the PLO, since the latter is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' recent visit to Cairo, Sha'th said the objective was to break the stalemate the Israelis have created through their stubbornness at the negotiating table. He pointed out that Peres is more ready to take action, but the final decision to do so rests with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

He said that the Palestinian people view the peace process as a political struggle running parallel to the intifadah, not as an alternative to it. It also is a constant opportunity to entrench the Palestinian right and defend it, not a chance to present concessions.

On the future of American-Palestinian relations under the Clinton administration, Dr. Sha'th said there are two aspects defining Clinton's personality and stands. The first is that in accordance with the U.S. definition, he is progressive and has a youthful and liberal outlook. He is Jimmy Carter's student, supports human rights, and is opposed to mass-destruction weapons. These are positive aspects.

He said the other aspect, which is negative, is that he depended on a large number of people belonging to the Israeli lobby who helped him during his election campaign. Therefore, he issued many statements that do not go along with the U.S. policy in the Middle East, especially regarding the Jerusalem cause. This, of course, is dangerous for the Palestinians.

He pointed out that after Clinton was elected, he started an organized toning-down campaign in order not to take any step that could harm or destroy the peace process.

On 'Arafat's statements, in which he announced that Iran provided aid to form a front opposing the peace process, Sha'th said the Palestinian people, who have been defending their independence throughout the past period, cannot now submit to new authority from Iran, or any other country for that matter.

He affirmed that if Iran wants to support the rights of the Palestinian people, it has to support their unity and legitimate leadership, not fund separatist action.

Libya

Ministry 'Source' on UN Lockerbie Resolution

LD3011093792 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Nov (JANA)—A responsible source at the Libyan People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation has stated that in view of the lapse of one year on the raising of the issue and the measures that followed that harm the Libyan people, and in view of the practical steps taken and the desire expressed by the Jamahiriyah for the holding of a dialogue and for a peaceful solution leading to the establishment of the truth, the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation, with its new form that reflects the will of the broad masses, hopes that sanctions against the Jamahiriyah will be lifted, thus creating a calm atmosphere that will encourage all the parties to reach a peaceful settlement to the issue.

1. The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [GSPLAJ] has on numerous occasions declared its categorical denunciation of international terrorism in all its forms and shapes and its readiness to cooperate with the efforts of the international community to eliminate this (?grave) phenomenon of whose victims the GSPLAJ has been one. Furthermore, the GSPLAJ has declared that its territories were free of any camps suspected of being used to train elements accused of carrying out acts of terrorism and has officially asked the UN secretary general to send an international committee to verify this fact.

2. The GSPLAJ has been and remains anxious to see justice established and commitment to international law adhered to. The best proof of this can perhaps be provided by the fact of its resorting to the International Court of Justice and its declaration of its readiness to try the suspects before a just and unbiased court.

3. We believe the establishment of the truth through a just court was the object, and this is a matter over which there is no dispute among the parties concerned. The dispute is confined to the venue of the court, and on this is matter we call for an urgent agreement.

4. The GSPLAJ has no desire to defy the international community, and for this reason it has adhered and continues to adhere to international laws and charters.

Those who follow the steps and initiatives taken by the Great Jamahiriyah in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 731/1992 will realize without any doubt that it has done all this in order to establish the truth through dialogue and understanding.

Papers Comment on Joint Statement on Pan Am, UTA

Statement Termed 'Bigotry'

LD2811135092 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 28 Nov 92

[All question marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Hurrh [November] 28, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—An editorial published today, entitled "determination to humiliate the Libyans", by Hamid 'Ali in the AL-JAMAHARIYAH newspaper dealt with yesterday's joint British, American, French statement on the so-called Pan Am and UTA issue.

The writer said in this article: "I firmly believe that no one can accept this bluster, arrogance, bigotry and enslavement of the will of the whole population and the confiscation of its sovereignty in the biggest ever operation of defiance, violation and falsification of international conventions and customs and even reality itself.

The British, American, and French joint statement on Pam Am UTA [as received] yesterday took us back to the times of illogic where justice disappears, rights are denied and the terms indicating cohesion are used for different purposes other than the real meaning.

At this bad time the party to the dispute becomes the sole judge fabricating accusations and dishing them out without any evidence or proof, requesting others to accept his injustice and tyranny without any debate or asking of questions.

What logic is this whereby the people's demand to extradite its citizens when it is convinced beyond doubt of their innocence. What further cooperation [word indistinct] requesting when we adhered to the decisions of the United Nations regarding this issue and others. The [word indistinct] good are a witness to this. We declare our acceptance of any impartial court. What further cooperation do they need in addition to this and what compliance to the international community is superior to our commitment? The Jamahariyah cooperated, if not indulged in its cooperation, but it was not required to extradite its citizens for there is no logic in the world for such extradition.

What extradition is there between the Jamahariyah and these countries while they are at war with her? What extradition or reassurance is the said statement referring to while the very relations between us are severed?

The writer asked in his editorial: "What is the claim of total defence while they don't trust our judiciary. How do they expect us to trust theirs. There should be reciprocal treatment. If they don't trust our judiciary and legal procedures we don't trust theirs considering that we feel that we are treated unjustly. There is bitterness and sadness for wrongly accusing us that we did not comply with the UN decisions. And there is a total lack of trust between us and them for we have adhered to these resolutions while they still insist on humiliating us and try to force our submissions despite all that we have done for world peace and security.

Hamid 'Ali added while we reaffirm our cooperation and response we cannot under any circumstances embark on anything other than cooperation. But we cannot begin talking about extradition because such talk and the other party insisting on does not amount to seeking our continued cooperation and the real aim is to humiliate us, destroy Libyan sovereignty, trample on it and complicate the issue further. This shows that there are other purposes to these practices which should be declared. We have had enough of this farce and falsification which can no longer mislead public opinion.

What wise man would believe the good intentions of parties who refuse to discuss the trial but insist on the place of that trial. Any place has its own sanctity and sovereignty. Accordingly the insistence on a particular place for the trial is merely an instrument which the concerned parties are hiding in a bid to humiliate the Libyans and inflict historical shame upon them which would be inherited by one Libyan generation after another.

Whereas we reassert the continuation of our cooperation, we request others to respond to logic and reciprocal cooperation. But the blackmail, especially on the part of the British side cannot be accepted for it is absurd and disgusting.

The concerned parties, especially Britain, should be aware of its implications and respond to our demands in the same manner we responded and cooperated.

If they are requesting individuals on mere suspicion we request terrorists who are still in their territory and have been granted refuge and protection despite all the crimes they committed against the Libyans.

We request the Security Council to set up a committee and send it to us to investigate the validity of the documents and evidence which we possess against these terrorists including material supplied to them to destroy our country and undermine its security.

The writer concluded his editorial by saying: If the concerned countries respond to our fair demands, they would have really started to step along the path of cooperation which may convince us that they began to deal with us in a correct manner and really lead to a solution to the problem.

We on our part have taken tangible steps towards the solution and presented a number of solutions. But persistent escalation will not deter us and any new escalation will not deter Libya nor will it force its submission or soften its position for this does not in any way represent a solution to the problem.

Perhaps the new escalation by the concerned parties will make us regret any cooperation we once provided and facilities we made available and any attempt we tried towards finding a solution to the problem.

But our good deeds are countered by denial and ingratitude and instead of receiving thanks and appreciation we sadly face a strange logic and illogical puzzles whereby our desire and fear for international peace and security are met with blame and expressions of humiliation "such as total compliance" and similar terms. This is hollow logic and a contradiction in terms.

We therefore reaffirm that any further escalation will only stiffen our resolve and determination to stick to our stance.

Statement Called 'Greater Challenge'

LD2911115792 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0950 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Nov (JANA)—Yesterday's AL-JAMAHIRIYAH asserted that the new Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau will fail if it behaves in the same manner as the previous one. Its fate is now before the Basic People's Congresses and therefore it should take cognizance of the measures taken by the previous Foreign Liaison Bureau, which opened the door to false accusations. The paper was commenting on the tripartite statement issued yesterday [as received] by the United States, Britain, and France.

In an article entitled "The Sham That Toppled the Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau," the paper added that the tripartite statement constitutes a greater challenge, violation, and falsification of the UN Charter and the reality. The three signatory states, which are members of the UN Security Council, are countries that have stolen antiquities, documents, and manuscripts; they are aggressive and colonialist powers, which have been accountable to no one. They have been giving refuge to terrorists and housing terrorist camps and persons sought by Libyan justice, like Thatcher and Reagan, who have yet to be handed over.

The paper said that, if the UN Security Council does not lift the sanctions imposed on Libya, it will be clear that it is the council of these three powers; its rules are of those of the big powers—that is, discriminatory and racist.

The paper pointed out, furthermore, that Libya is being blackmailed and humiliated, particularly by Britain. It pointed out that Libya has been cooperative and it has not been asked to hand over the accused.

The paper added that these three powers are in a state of war with Libya. They have no diplomatic relations with Libya, and therefore it is illogical for a foe to be also the judge. If they do not trust our justice, the paper asserted, why should we trust theirs?

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH pointedly stressed the need to demand the return of the terrorists who have been given refuge by those countries. It called upon the UN Security Council to examine Libyan documents indicting them and vindicating the claim that they should be handed over.

Media Suggest Withdrawal From UN Possible

LD3011095592 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] The Libyan information media, particularly the written media, have spoken of the likelihood of Libya's withdrawal from the United Nations, in protest against the Western powers' threats to tighten the economic seige on Libya.

The United State, Britain, and France have warned Tripoli about the consequences of its continued refusal to respond to Western demands for the handing over of the two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie case.

Algerian Minister Arrives, Meets al-Qadhdhafi

LD2811153092 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity met last night in Tripoli with the Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi who arrived yesterday in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

[Tripoli JANA in English at 1426 GMT on 28 November adds: "The leader of the revolution received Lakhdar Brahimi, the foreign minister of sisterly Algeria."]

Sudan

Iranian Judiciary Head on 4-Day Visit to Khartoum

Comments on 'Enemies of Islam'

NC2911075192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] The Iranian and Sudanese judiciary heads met in Khartoum last night and stressed the need to expand bilateral judicial relations and cooperation.

The Sudanese judiciary head spoke last night at a banquet honoring [Iranian Judiciary Head] Yazdi's visit to Sudan and described relations between Tehran and Khartoum as strong and based on Islam and faith. The

Sudanese judiciary head expressed hope that the Yazdi's visit to Sudan will serve as a good example to the world of cooperation among Islamic countries.

Yazdi also spoke at the reception and said that the enemies of Islam are trying to portray religion as being separate from politics.

Officials Stress Islamic Issues

LD2911210292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Correspondent's telephone report from Sudan]

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, head of the judiciary, who is in the second day of his four-day official visit to Sudan, has met Parliament Speaker Mr. Muhammad Amin Khalifah at the provisional national parliament. Mr. Muhammad Amin Khalifah spoke on the changes since the national salvation revolution in Sudan and on the plots of the enemies of this revolution.

Mr. Yazdi said the existence of difficulties at the beginning of work by a government which wants to implement Islamic laws is natural. He emphasized the need for the speedy organization of government and its organs, based upon the wishes of the people. He expressed the hope that the leaders of Sudan's Islamic revolution will be successful in building an Islamic government, and become the center of Islamic propagation, not only on the African continent but in the Islamic world.

Mr. Yazdi also participated today in special ceremonies arranged by the Sudanese judiciary in his honor.

During the meeting the head of the Sudanese judiciary said: We are in process of implementing Islamic law in Sudan; following the Islamic Republic of Iran, we are the first country to honestly place Islamic laws at the top of our agenda.

He also pointed to the valuable historic and contemporary role of the Iranian ulema and jurisprudents in the propagation of Islamic truths. He acknowledged that the works of these ulema have been the guide for the seekers of the Islamic path.

Sudan's head of the judiciary added that the national salvation revolution of Sudan is the first revolution—after the great Islamic revolution of Iran, led by the great combatant Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds—to be inspired by the latter, and this is the cause of the necessity for cooperation of the leaders of the two revolutions. He added that in Sudan there has been an Islamic awakening which can in turn propagate Islam in Africa.

Pointing to the universal declaration of human rights, Mr. Jalal Ali Lutfi said in conclusion that freedom of religion is specified in this declaration and we have chosen Islam, but as soon as we wish to implement Islamic laws, we are accused of being violent.

The head of the Sudanese judiciary said: We wish to implement Islamic law and we will not retreat under any circumstances. He emphasized: Our law is the Koran and we will follow it.

In a brief speech, Mr. Yazdi said the renewal of Islam in Sudan is a joyful event. He added that the highest form of government is Islamic law, Islamic government, and the Koran. He said that in Islamic government the right of governing the people is in the first place that of God, and it is only in this condition that the rights of people are best guaranteed.

Continuing his visit, Mr. Yazdi today visited the University of Koran in Khartoum. This is the largest official center for the study of the holy Koran in the Republic of Sudan and is active in training teachers and interpreters of the Koran.

Yazdi Meets With al-Bashir

LD3011115692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Continuing his visit to the Sudan, Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, met with 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the Sudan's Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation [RCCNS] and head of state, today.

[Unidentified Voice and Vision correspondent from Khartoum] In the meeting, General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, remarking on the obstacles created by the enemies of the Sudanese revolution with regard to the implementation of the Islamic shari'ah, laid emphasis on the need to benefit from the practical experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He called the Islamic revolution of Iran the mother revolution.

The chairman of the Sudan Republic's RCCNS and head of state described Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to paradise, the greatest reviver of Islam this century.

Mr. Yazdi, in turn, pointed to the obstacles which had faced the Islamic revolution, as a result of the war and the Monafeqin [derogatory term referring to Mojahedin-e Khalq organization], and its victory over those obstacles through reliance on God. He said: We are certain that you too will put the existing obstacles behind you and successfully pursue your path, by placing your faith in God. Also, today, Mr. Yazdi attended a gathering of that country's ulema, clerics, and judges, where he remarked on the clerics' knowledge of religion and the world. He stressed the need for clerics to take an active part in political responsibilities and the management of the society. He called on them to carry out their task in terms of guiding society to the best of their ability, hence constituting a support base for the people.

Opposition Details Agreement Reached With Iran

NC2811211492 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Nov 92 p 5

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar and Majdi Hilmi]

[Text] The Sudanese opposition in Cairo has revealed that the Sudanese Government has turned "Port Sudan and Suakin" in the eastern region into an advanced Iranian military base.

The opposition confirmed that thousands of Iranian soldiers are based in this region and that Iran has built a radio station in Port Sudan beamed at Egypt and the Arab countries to spread Iranian propaganda.

Talks were held in the past few days between the two governments on an agreement to grant Iran naval facilities in Sudanese ports on the Red Sea in return for Iranian military aid and oil to Sudan. The agreement allows Iran to lease Port Sudan for 25 years to threaten the Red Sea countries, especially Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The agreement has reached an advanced stage whereby Sudan grants all possible facilities to Iranian ships and vessels in Port Sudan in return for supplying Sudan with economic and military aid and Iranian oil.

Faruq Abu-'Isa, one of the Sudanese opposition leaders and former foreign minister, said that Iran is backing the Sudanese regime with arms and funds. He said that the Iranian policy aims to turn Sudan into an arsenal to serve Tehran's interests and threaten its neighbors and to turn it into a base for exporting Iranian terrorism. He revealed that the Sudanese regime has decided to turn the eastern area into a military operations zone. He said that the agreement, which was signed by 'Umar al-Bashir and Hashemi-Rafsanjani last year, is being implemented quickly.

Abu-'Isa also revealed that Sudanese Christians are continuing to flee Sudan to Egypt, Canada, the United States, Australia, Britain, and African countries to escape harassment by the Islamic Front. He said that the government has expelled hundreds of Christian employees as part of its policy to expel those who oppose it. The Front's merchants are also tightening the noose around Christian merchants as part of their policy of monopolizing trade. Christian merchants have been forced to sell their possessions and emigrate from Sudan. He added that the regime is now deepening the sedition between the various sects of the Sudanese people after turning the civil war into a war between Muslims and Christians and between Arabs and Africans. The opposition leader said that the Sudanese opposition has given the Arab governments, whose nationals are being trained in terrorist camps in Sudan, lists of names and sites of these camps and of the names of their nationals who were in them. He added that these governments have ignored the Sudanese opposition's information, thinking that the opposition is exaggerating the information because it rejects the regime. Abu-'Isa said: Our information has been confirmed to be true. He said that the training camps include elements from Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, and Kenya. He also confirmed that the number of these camps is increasing and that the training is done under the supervision of elements from the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. The camps are located in several areas that include "Arus" camp in Port Sudan port, "al-Ma'aqil" camp south of Shandi, the "Shambat" camp on the Nile north of Khartoum, the "Jabal Uliyah" camp on the White Nile south of Khartoum, and the "al-Qutaynah" camp on the White Nile 100 km south of Khartoum.

Egytians Said Welcome To Inspect Training Camps

NC2711122692 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Nov 92 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Sudanese Embassy in Cairo has emphasized that the Sudanese Government has not received any formal accusation of training Egyptian fundamentalists in Khartoum.

An embassy source pointed out that the training camps are for training Sudanese volunteers in the popular defense forces under the supervision of the Sudanese Armed Forces. The source stressed Sudan's concern over Egypt's security and stability. He also stressed that Sudan has publicly welcomed any Egyptian official who wants to visit Sudan to verify that the information regarding Sudan's connection with Egyptian extremists is false. He noted that this invitation is open any time. AL-WAFD has learned that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat tried last week to contain the situation between Cairo and Khartoum and to stop the escalation of tension between the two countries.

Nubian Group Demands Safe Haven Within Country

PM2711141492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

["Uthman Mirghani report: "Organization Calls for 'Safe Haven' for Nubian People in Sudan"]

[Excerpt] The "Organization for Solidarity with Jibal al-Nu'uh [Nubian Mountains] Abroad" [OSJNA] has called for the setting up of "safe havens" to protect the Nubian people in western Sudan along the lines of the areas set up to protect the Kurds in Iraq. It demanded that the Jibal al-Nubah region be separated from Kordofan Province and regarded as an independent province within a unified Sudan.

The organization pointed out in a letter addressed to Charles Lamuniere, UN deputy assistant secretary general for humanitarian affairs, who is currently visiting

Sudan, that "the Jibal al-Nubah people are facing the possibility of complete annihilation" as a result of the Khartoum government's policies. It said that "the campaigns of annihilation and violence have been stepped up since early 1990," pointing to what it described as "massacres" in the areas of Laqawah and Kadugli and the campaigns of arrests and torture, in addition to the forcible expulsion of about 40,000 of Jibal al-Nubah's sons, who have been moved to camps in north Kordofan.

In its letter to Lemonnier, a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained, OSJNA said that conditions in the camps to which Jibal al-Nubah's sons have been moved "are worse than conditions in Somali camps." He cited U.S. AID reports as witness.

The organization, which identifies itself as a nonpolitical organization set up last year by a number of Jibal al-Nubah "refugees and exiles" abroad to defend their region's sons, urged Charles Lamuniere to examine the Jibal al-Nubah situation during his current mission to investigate human rights conditions in Sudan. It also called for examining the "suffering" of the sons of al-Fawr, al-Anqasna, and southern Sudan.

The organization said in its letter: We call on the United Nations to do the following:

— To take steps to put pressure on the Sudanese Government to stop its forcible expulsion of the Nubian people.

— To set up safe havens to protect the Nubians and their civilization against annihilation.

— To call for the separation of the Jibal al-Nubah region from Kordofan Province and for it to be regarded as an independent province, as it was before 1913, under a unified Sudan.

— To secure the release of all Jibal al-Nubah political prisoners and end the precautionary detention of Father Philip 'Abbas Ghabbush, leader of the Sudanese Nationalist Party.

— To call for the withdrawal of all government forces, Arab militia forces, mujahidin forces, and Sudanese People's Liberation Army forces from the Jibal al-Nubah region.

—To guarantee the Sudanese Government's reopening of the Jibal al-Nubah border and its allowing all Nubian sons freedom of movement.

— To call on the Sudanese Government to return all deported and displaced Nubian sons.

— To work to bring to trial those responsible for the military destruction of Nubian society. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Receives Malaysian Premier

LD2611214092 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received this morning at the Carthage palace Mr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, prime minister of Malaysia, in the presence of Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, and Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, foreign affairs minister of Malaysia.

Following the audience, which was also attended by the ambassador of Malaysia to Tunisia, Mr. Mahathir bin Mohamad made a statement in which he said that his meeting with President Ben Ali was very useful and that it dealt with bilateral relations and international issues of common interests, and discussed how to deal with these issues. He added that the conversation also dealt with topical issues, in particular the tragedy of Bosnia-Hercegovina and its causes. The prime minister of Malaysia said that agreement was reached on continuing the dialogue and working to consolidate the ties of cooperation between Tunisia and Malaysia in all fields, out of their belief of the need for deeper cooperation between the two countries.

Trade Agreements Signed

LD2611100492 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpts] A Tunisian-Malaysian working session was held this morning at the government palace in Kasba under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and his Malaysian counterpart Mahathir bin Mohamed. [passage omitted]

A ceremony was organized this afternoon at the government palace in Kasba during which two agreements were signed on cooperation between Tunisia and Malaysia in the fields of trade and payments. The ceremony was presided over by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and his Malaysian counterpart Mahathir bin Mohamed.

In a speech at the ceremony, Hamed Karoui stressed that the results of Mahathir bin Mohamed's visit to Tunisia go far beyond the two agreements, despite their importance. It has made it possible to strengthen the ties of fraternity between the two countries, open new prospects for bilateral and regional cooperation between Tunisia and Malaysia, and consolidate the belief in the need to make utmost efforts to support solidarity among developing countries. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Sends Message on Palestinian Rights

LD3011102692 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] On the occasion of Tunisia's celebration with the rest of the peace-loving international community of the

international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali addressed a message to the UN special committee on the exercise of the constant and unalienable rights of the Palestinian people. He included in this letter his greetings and appreciation to the committee and also included his appreciation of the committee's continuous support for the Palestinian people, who have been exposed to long-lasting injustice. He stated that the time is ripe to put an end to this injustice so that these people, like all other peoples, can enjoy all of their rights and, in particular, their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their state on their own land in accordance with international legitimacy and agreements.

The president said that Tunisia renews its complete solidarity with this committee's good efforts and its appreciation of the continuous efforts to relieve the suffering of the Palestinian people. He reminded the committee that Tunisia—which is committed to support Palestinian rights arising from international legitimacy and which believes in the justice of the Palestinian cause and the need to settle the issues peacefully—has supported international efforts for the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Ben Ali renewed Tunisia's readiness to participate actively in facilitating all solutions that the Palestinians find acceptable to guarantee for them the return of their rights.

Reports on Returning Iraqi Airliners Denied

LD2711163092 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1517 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Tunis 27 Nov, KUNA—Tunisia categorically denied press reports today that it intends to return the four Iraqi airliners flown there by the Iraqi regime during the latter's occupation of Kuwait. It added that it is still bound by international resolutions and is not prepared to change its stance on the Iraqi airliners in its possession unless there is a new development which international organizations might take into consideration.

Sources at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry told KUNA here today that "the Tunisian official circles have not received anything from the International Civil Aviation Organization which would allow the return of the airliners to Iraq." [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Defense Minister on Preparedness, Ties With Iran

LD2811130092 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Excerpts] In a comprehensive interview with AL-ANBA, Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah has discussed various security and other issues concerning the homeland and the citizen.

Shaykh al-Sabah said that foremost among these issues is the modernization of the Army to enable it to confront the challenges facing our country. The modernization of the Army is being carried out by supplying it with advanced equipment. Within this context, the government has signed agreements with many states on the acquisition of the most modern weapons: aircraft, warships, tanks, missiles, and [word indistinct]. In view of the importance of the human factor in any modern army, the Army is carrying out continuous exercises with friendly states as specified in the security agreements signed with those states. [passage omitted]

The minister said that because Kuwait cannot live in isolation from the regional and international changes around it, the dangerous nuclear weapons that have entered the region will constitute a cause for apprehension and a concern in neighboring states, and will threaten the security of this vital region of the world. They may lead to the outbreak of a new war in this region, which already has experienced two wars in one decade.

On relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and Iran, the defense minister stressed that the GCC member-states wish to coexist with Iran on the basis of good neighborliness and the bonds of tolerant Islam. This is evident from the sincere intentions demonstrated by the member-states to achieve this objective on sound fraternal foundations. Hence the scope and future of relations with Iran are defined by the principles and pillars laid down by their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC at their earlier meeting. These are manifested in adherence to the principles of international law; respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; noninterference in internal affairs, the eschewing of the use of force and the threat to use it; and the solution of disputes by peaceful means; the minister declared.

The other issue raised by the defense minister in the interview is that of building the security or other barrier at the Kuwaiti border. The implementation of this operation has become easy, he said, especially after the international committee completed the demarcation of the land borders between Iraq and Kuwait last Monday by placing the last border marker, in implementation of UN Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Leaves for Visit to Italy, UK

LD2911130292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1059 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 29 Nov (KUNA)—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim left today for Italy and the United Kingdom, on an official visit expected to last several days. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Ali told KUNA that his visit to Italy falls within the framework of military cooperation between the two countries. He stated that the delegation accompanying him will be touring a number of Italian military installations. [passage omitted]

The defense minister added that he will also be visiting the United Kingdom in order to sign an executive agreement which is part of the Kuwaiti-British security agreement. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Ali pointed out that Kuwait will be purchasing weapons from all fraternal and friendly countries. He said that he will be seriously looking into any system of weapons which suits Kuwait's needs. The appropriate evaluations will be made later by Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials, he stated.

Government Welcomes End of Border Demarcation

LD2911150092 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1326 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 29 Nov (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers today welcomed the erection by the UN commission of the last marker along the land borders between Kuwaiti and Iraq, in implementation of the UN Security Council resolution. The council praised the good efforts of the international commission in charge of border demarcation.

At its regular meeting, which was chaired by Shaykh Sabah al- Ahmad al-Jabir, acting prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, the Council of Ministers also expressed great satisfaction at the UN Security Council's unanimous resolution not to lift the economic sanctions against Iraq, given Iraq's retraction from its commitment to implement the UN Security Council resolutions and the conditions of the cease-fire agreement, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 687.

The council furthermore expressed its appreciation to the UN Security Council members for their firm stance in rejecting the Iraqi regime's threats and false claims, as well as their commitment to ensuring that this regime fully implements the UN Security Council resolutions. The council reiterated that the Iraqi regime's continuous disregard for international legitimacy constitutes a serious threat to the region's security, peace, and stability.

The council stressed that appropriate measures should be taken to force the Iraqi regime fully to implement the

UN Security Council resolutions, leading to the release of innocent Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages in Iraqi jails, and to respect Kuwait's sovereignty and borders so that peace and stability may be consolidated in the region. [passage omitted]

Minister on Media, Clinton Administration

PM2611094392 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Nov 92 p 6

[Interview with Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by Hamad al-Jasir in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-Jasir] Some media officials in the Arab world believe that Kuwaiti media rhetoric reflects hard-line diplomacy with regard to relations with some Arab states as a result of the Iraqi occupation. They ask whether the media will adopt a more flexible and moderate rhetoric after Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah's arrival as minister?

[Al-Sabah] Why are you asking us to be more flexible? Were we the aggressors? Was it we who began the negative attitudes and estrangement? Let them make the first move if they realize their mistake. The initiative should come from the states which supported Iraq, not from Kuwait, because the wound is deep and Kuwait cannot take the initiative and be the more flexible government toward these states, which to this very day continue to attack us via the press. The initiative is left to the one at fault so that he can reexamine his calculations, and we will not reconsider our position because he who started it is the one to blame. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jasir] You issued recently a decision to close down the SAWT AL-KUWAYT and AL-FAJR AL-JADID newspapers. What was the reason behind that? Was it to do with parliamentary debates?

[Al-Sabah] These newspapers were published because of the conditions prevailing under the Iraqi invasion and the disappearance of the local press. This reason has now been removed. So there is no reason to continue to publish government newspapers. And daily newspapers have started to be published, and the independent press has stood on its feet once again. I do not believe that anyone disagrees with me over the recent decision.

As for the parliamentary questions about SAWT AL-KUWAYT and AL-FAJR AL-JADID, we prepared a reply to them which was handed to the National Council.

[Al-Jasir] What is your position on the demands for licenses for new newspapers and magazines? Does the ministry still not want to do that? And why?

[Al-Sabah] With regard to the licenses for technical, vocational, and nonpolitical newspapers, the ministry has no objection to issuing them. As for licenses for general political newspapers, we believe that what is already available on the Kuwaiti market is more than is needed, inasmuch as there are now seven dailies. Nevertheless, a study is being being conducted at the ministry to look into the possibility of issuing licenses for new newspapers.

[Al-Jasir] You are more experienced in U.S. politics than any other Kuwaiti. Do you expect the Clinton administration to adopt the same firmness and determination in continuing President Bush's declared plan to topple Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Sabah] The principal criterion in that connection is President-elect Clinton's recent statements in which he emphasized that his administration would work in the Gulf in the same manner adopted by President Bush's administration.

Actually the U.S. position on the region no longer depends on the type of the U.S. Administration. It is not a commitment for the Republican Bush administration as much as it is a commitment for U.S. public opinion, which stands strongly behind the present orientation of Washington's policy in the Gulf. No administration in the White House can exceed this present position. For our part, we hope that the new administration will not be less enthusiastic than the present administration. And we have no doubt that the U.S. position in our favor will continue. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jasir] Arab media sources regarded former Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdun's appointment to Iraq's permanent UN mission as an Iraqi step designed to improve relations with the next Democratic administration. These sources say that Nizar Hamdun has old friends among and strong ties with many Democrats. What is your opinion?

[Al-Sabah] No one can do anything to improve the Iraqi regime's ugly image in the world, especially in the United States, because of that regime's crimes and excesses. [passage omitted]

Iranians, Syrians, Lebanese Said Banned From Country

NC2811123592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Nov (MENA)—The MENA correspondent in Kuwait has learned that the Kuwaiti Government has made a secret decision to prevent new workers or other citizens from Iran, Syria, and Lebanon from entering the country. This decision has been in force since last week.

An official source noted that the main reason behind this decision is that Kuwaiti officials do not want new Shiite elements entering Kuwait. They recently noticed that the Kuwaiti Shiites, most of whom are prominent merchants, are bringing in citizens of these three countries, providing them with full guardianship, and giving them jobs. This has increased the power of these Shiites inside Kuwait in a way that threatens its security.

The source adds that it has been proven that most of the Lebanese who work in Kuwait belong to the Shiite Amal Movement and the other Shiite parties in Lebanon.

The total number of Syrian workers in Kuwait is estimated at around 40,000, Iranian workers at 33,000, and Lebanese workers at 20,000.

United Arab Emirates

Government Takes Dispute With Iran to UN

MC2911132492 Paris AFP in English 1206 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, Nov 29 (AFP) - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has taken its dispute with Iran over three strategic islands to the United Nations, the minister of state for foreign affairs said Sunday.

Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nahayyan, quoted by AL-HAYAH newspaper [published in London], said U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali could send an envoy to the Gulf.

Foreign Minister Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi delivered a memorandum on the islands' dispute to the U.N. chief last week and Butrus-Ghali then received the Iranian representative to the world body, he said.

Shaykh Hamdan said his country had "all the documents to prove its ownership of the three islands and it can not give up any of its rights."

But Abu Dhabi would accept any verdict from the International Court of Justice in The Hague or from the United Nations Security Council "in keeping with international conventions and law." [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Delivers 'Evacuation Day' Address

JN2911204692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Nov 92

["Text" of speech by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih marking 25th anniversary of "evacuation day"; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; and peace be on the last prophet and messenger. Brother honest citizens: On the eve of the silver anniversary of 30 November 1967, I seize this opportunity, which all of us hold dear, to extend my congratulations—as do brother members of the Presidential Council—to our dear countrymen at home and overseas.

Twenty-five years ago today, thanks to a will to fight, stand fast, and make sacrifices, our determined people won national independence, and drove the British colonialists from our land, thus completing the liberation of all the homeland from the yoke of hideous occupation. [passage omitted]

On this great occasion, we renew the pledge to our people that we will continue to guard all of the Yemeni revolution's accomplishments and gains, above all unity, freedom, and democracy. We vow to make every possible effort and to strive, side by side with all of this homeland's sincere citizens, to attain further ambitious, national, and cultural objectives. We are irreversibly and inexorably wedded to unity, and will maintain the course of democracy—an option that we desire out of our absolute conviction. We will continue along the democratic path until democracy is consolidated with the scheduled elections as an unavoidable first step down the road to stable constitutional legitimacy.

Free brother citizens, our country has, in the recent past, experienced trying circumstances and major challenges, especially in the economic area where performance was inadequate and the production process received less than its due attention. Furthermore, our country was the target of conspiracies. But worst hit was our economic front. However, conspirators have failed to reckon with the fact that, thanks to our people's enlightenment, steadfastness, and patience, attempts to starve them will crumble. We would like to stress the need for all departments to shoulder their responsibilities and combat steep price hikes. For our part, we will give this matter due attention, and will monitor government action to check inflation and improve the standard of living, especially for low-income groups as envisaged by clear directives sent by the Presidential Council to the brother prime minister and members of the cabinet a few days ago. These directives will serve as guidelines for government action up to election day. In the interim, we stress the need for the government to move to put an end to rampant corruption, indiscipline, and embezzlement of public funds—phenomena that rose sharply following the establishment of the Yemeni Republic and political pluralism, which some took to as a license to squander public money, be apathetic, slacken in the discharge of their responsibilities, and place personal interests above those of the homeland.

We take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of the Council of Representatives shouldering its responsibilities as set out in the Constitution, monitoring the performance of the government, and the extent of its commitment to wage a relentless fight against all negative practices. The Council of Representatives must activate the monitoring and accountability organs, consolidate the principle of reward and punishment, and eliminate all the burdens of the past wherever they occur. The council should also pool all efforts and energies to facilitate the work of the Higher Elections Committee. This is to create the correct and free climate for elections to enhance our people's national unity and banish whatever residue remains of the divisionist past and the geographic, sectarian, and tribal tendencies associated

with it. The aim is also to rid ourselves of all forms of parochial bigotry that are incompatible with the present and future of a civilized, united homeland within the framework of the state of law and order that embodies the masses' free will. We also stress the need for the government to make it a priority to consolidate security in all areas of our lives, to pursue criminals regardless of their standing or the forces that stand behind them or afford them protection. These people must be brought to justice so that they receive the punishment they deserve for the crimes they have committed against law and order.

Brother free citizens: We are aware that the transition from an era of division to one of unity and democracy and political pluralism could not have been possible without having to pay a price. However, the price should not be so heavy as to exacerbate the daily life of the people or compromise the security of our society. The government should see to the enhancement of the performance of all agencies and corporations, keeping close and continuous watch on their conduct. Given that this government enjoys wider powers than any of its predecessors, these must be exercised to the fullest extent since the interests of the homeland and the citizens take paramount precedence. [passage omitted]

'Aziz on Blockade, Iranian Threat, Opposition

JN2811120292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] New York, 28 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has accused the current U.S. Administration and the British and French Governments of continuing the unjust economic blockade against Iraq. He said: The current administration and the British Government, and to some extent the French Government, are trying to superimpose their will on Iraq to restore their hegemony over it, just as was the case before the nationalization of Iraq's oil. He stressed that Iraq will continue to resist this tendentious colonialist policy.

This came during an interview with an Arab expatriate television station in Detroit, moderated by Faysal 'Arabu and reported by an INA correspondent in New York, in which he said: The UN Security Council should abide by its resolutions and fulfill its obligations toward Iraq in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 687. He added: Iraq is trying to enlighten the Security Council member-states that do not contribute to this tendentious policy, and to educate world public opinion about this policy, which conflicts with international legitimacy.

He noted that Iraq will continue to urge the international community to pressure these governments to change their unjust policies against the Iraqi people. He said that weakening Iraq is an attempt to weaken the entire Arab region and the bases of security and stability in the region, which is acutely suffering from an imbalance.

He added: Iran has exploited the disturbance in the balance of power and has begun to purchase sophisticated weapons and military technology, spending billions of dollars to impose itself as a hegemonic force. He pointed out that Iranian threats and the occupation of Abu Musa Island constitute one of the forms of Iranian policy. He said that expressions of concern over such policies are insufficient, and that what is required is to translate words into deeds to lift the blockade from Iraq, thus enabling it to play its natural role as a counterbalance to Iranian force. The deputy prime minister stressed that the region's countries, headed by Iraq, are the ones that can deal with the Iranian threat.

Tariq 'Aziz noted that the Iraqi leadership's priorities are taking care of the people's life and ending their bitter suffering. He said that the first priority after the blockade is lifted will be improving the people's living conditions and services to them, pursuing development, and proceeding toward renaissance, progress, and prosperity. He said that the Iraqi leadership is fully convinced of the need to move Iraq from a country governed by revolutionary legitimacy into one governed by constitutional legitimacy. He said that President Saddam Husayn spoke about this several times, and the issue has been discussed on a large scale.

Regarding the new U.S. Administration, Tariq 'Aziz said that the new administration is required to announce what it plans to do with Iraq and the Arab region. Iraq has had no contact with Clinton or his advisers. He noted that regardless of who is President of the United States, Iraq's concern is that any U.S. Administration should deal with the region and with Iraq in an objective, responsible, and balanced manner. The Bush administration mixed personal matters with other issues, and all its attempts to isolate Iraq and to change its national leadership have failed.

The deputy prime minister expressed hope that any U.S. Administration will deal with the issues of the Arab region in a balanced and objective fashion, saying: Therefore, the blockade on Iraq must be lifted and attempts to weaken Iraq should be avoided because weakening Iraq will not serve the interests of the people or countries of the Arab region.

With regard to Iraqi-Arab relations, Tariq 'Aziz stressed that relations with sisterly Jordan are normal. He added that what has been published are tendentious rumors, and this has been affirmed by Jordanian officials, particularly King Husayn. He said that with regard to the Arab countries, Iraq's relations with the overwhelming majority of them are good, with the exception of those countries that participated and continue to participate in the aggression against Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz spoke in detail about the true situation in northern Iraq. He said that there is still a rebellion in the three northern governorates led by the leaders of well-known parties under instructions from the U.S. Government. He reviewed details of the dialogue with the Kurdistan Front embarked on by Jalal Talabani, and then led by Mas'ud Barzani for four months. He said that the dialogue produced the text of a new law for autonomy and normalizing the situation in the north through 20 points that tackle these issues.

'Aziz added that the political leadership agreed with the Kurdistan Front on associating the Kurds in the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, licensing eight Kurdish parties, issuing a newspaper for each party, and holding parliamentary elections throughout Iraq to elect the National Assembly. The political leadership and the Kurdistan Front also agreed on a new draft constitution that organizes political life in Iraq based on the Constitution, political pluralism, and on electing a legislative council for the Autonomous Region which would elect an executive council.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the Kurdish parties have a copy of all the minutes, recordings, and agreements reached. The leadership also has a copy. The claims about differences on this or that issue are baseless because the entire problem is that the United States did not allow them to sign the agreement. He added that the Kurdish parties expressed satisfaction with the agreements reached. Mas'ud Barzani has not yet come back because Jalal

Talabani left for Washington and [British Prime Minister] Major and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Djerejian asked him not to sign.

Tariq 'Aziz said that Mas'ud Barzani personally informed the leadership in Baghdad of this in January 1992. He told us that Jalal Talabani did not want the agreement because the Americans instructed him not to sign it on the pretext that this would strengthen the Iraqi Government.

The deputy prime minister said that rebellion in the northern governorates has encouraged Iran, Turkey, the Zionist entity, the United States, and Britain to wreak havoc in northern Iraq to the point of using Kurdish forces and leaderships as mercenaries to kill Turkish Kurds. They also used the Turkish Army to attack Iraqi and Turkish Kurds. This is an action void of nationalism, whether toward Iraq or the Kurds, he added.

Regarding the so-called opposition, Tariq 'Aziz said that any opposition should abide by its country's interests, independence, and territorial integrity, and not seek foreign help.

He clarified: The story is that there are individuals who claim that they represent the opposition. Despite this, it is all right, but why do they not explain their position, on which they differ with the government, in a nationalistic way instead of going to Washington, London, Tehran, and Riyadh to receive money to conspire against their homeland and encourage foreign forces to carry out military aggression against it? This is not opposition.

He said: The leadership in Iraq is ready to listen to other opinions. In the fifties and sixties, the Ba'th Party was among the ranks of the opposition, but we did not go to the foreigner to help us take power.

He clarified: These individuals have the right to differ with the government, but they do not have the right to seek the help of foreign governments to act, not only against the Iraqi Government, but against the Iraqi people as well, and to call for maintaining the blockade from which the people are suffering. He who is loyal to his country should not accept actions that conflict with his patriotism.

'Aziz on Iran, Kurds, Readiness for U.S. Contacts

JN2911140192 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] New York, Nov. 29, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz called upon the new American Administration to objectively deal with developments in the Arab region and Iraq.

Interviewed by the American TV Network CNN, Mr. 'Aziz said the United States should not remain a pawn to the past because the state in the region requires conforming with its developments.

Mr. 'Aziz added that Iran was still resorting to the policy of expansion and seeks for getting advanced weapons pointing out that the entire situation in the region demands an objective assessment toward Iranian threats.

The Iraqi deputy premier talked about the situation in the northern region and said that the Iraqi leadership was ready to peacefully settle the problem but what is required is an end to the foreign intervention there.

Mr. 'Aziz said that Iraq was the only country that endorses the national rights of Kurds and the only country in which a Kurdish national assumes the position of vice-president in addition to some ministers. A thing that could not be found in Iran, Turkey and Syria.

Mr. 'Aziz questioned about the feasibility of Washington's inviting of some influential Kurds and asking them not to sign the agreement reached with the Iraqi leadership on the autonomy rule under the pretext that that would strengthen the position of the authority in Iraq forgetting the hardship the Kurds were facing in north Iraq.

Mr. 'Aziz said that Iraq was and still is ready to talk with the U.S. Administration but so far has no contacts with the counsellors of President-elect Clinton and that if the new administration wanted to have contacts there it would be up to it for doing that.

The deputy prime minister further said that Iraq was not surprised by the recent position of the Security Council on perpetuation the embargo on Iraq but despite that the task of the Iraqi delegation at the United Nations was successful. He pointed out that maintaining the embargo on Iraq was an American, British and French political decision that has no relationship with implementing the Security Council Resolution No. 687 and that the war against Iraq was expected since his meeting with James Baker in Geneva few days before the start of that war.

Ba'th Official Comments on Talks in Turkey

JN2911135592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Turkish political parties have expressed their appreciation of and pride in the wise leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. They also highly appreciated his stand against the hostile alliance. Furthermore, they valued his concern for peoples' interests and regional security.

This was stated to INA by 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, Iraq Command member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and head of a party delegation, on his return to Baghdad from a week-long visit to Turkey.

'Abd-al-Ghafur went on to say that his talks with leaders of the two ruling parties and opposition parties showed a convergence of views and stands regarding the need to lift the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq, since this blockade inflicted economic damage on Turkey and

harmed the interests of its people, not to mention its grave repercussions on 18 million Iraqis, who have been denied access to food, medicine, and the requirements of a decent living, as well as baby milk.

The Iraq Command member said: Turkish parties have pledged to urge Turkish firms and merchants to deal with Iraq, particularly since this does not contravene the relevant Security Council resolutions and since Iraq has honored its obligations toward Resolution 687 and cooperated positively with the United Nations and UN inspection teams.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur affirmed that the Muslim Turkish people are sympathetic with the steadfast Iraqi people and support their just cause. He added that his delegation requested Turkish parties and their parliamentary groups to vote against the stay of the so-called allied troops on Turkish territory when the issue is debated by the Turkish Grand National Assembly next month, since their continued stay on Turkish territory runs counter to the claims which used to be promoted by allied troops and hostile quarters. He indicated that the continued presence of these tyrannical troops on Turkish territory undermines Turkey's sovereignty and exposes the region to instability, not to mention the enormous harm and provocation this causes to Iraq, which is concerned for respecting Turkey's national sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur noted that Turkish party leaders agreed that there is no justification for the continued presence of the allied troops hostile to Iraq. They also agreed on the importance of cooperation and coordination with the Iraqi Government in all that concerns the security of the two neighboring countries, as happened in the past. They also stressed their respect for Iraq's unity—territory and people—and said that there should be no interference in its domestic affairs.

The Iraq Command member said that the Ba'th Party delegation called for resuming official bilateral ties, exchanging visits by officials of the two countries, and also for reopening the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad. These calls, he added, were well received by all Turkish parties, because the normalization of ties between Iraq and Turkey and the resumption of Iraqi oil pumping operations via the pipeline crossing Turkish territory is beneficial to the two neighboring peoples, not to mention that such a development would compensate for the billions of dollars in losses sustained by the Turkish economy and people manifested through unemployment, inflation, and recession.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur added that his Ankara talks also touched on the means of enhancing ties between the Ba'th Party and Turkish parties, whose delegations he met. He indicated that he extended invitations to Turkish party leaders to visit Iraq to continue the dialogue and exchange views.

Concluding his statement to INA, 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur asserted that his Ankara visit was fruitful, adding that it gave him the opportunity to explain to his Turkish interlocutors the state of affairs in Iraq and to inform them of the stability it enjoys and the people's cohesive and strong rallying around the banner upheld by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He also informed them, he said, of the Iraqi people's firm determination to thwart all schemes of conspiracy, partition, and aggression; to persist with the reconstruction drive; to enhance democratic practices; and to promote pan-Arab and humane objectives.

Saddam Addresses Ba'th Party Officials

JN2711191792 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 Nov 92 pp 2, 3

["Text" of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's address to members of the commands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party branches in Baghdad on 23 November]

[Text] Good morning to you all. Comrades: Last time we did not finish our talk. I mean we did not convey to you all the ideas we wished to convey. Also, there was not enough time to answer all your questions. The ability to answer questions and clarify facts is the struggler's weapon in his contact with the masses. The struggler will be embarrassed if he cannot answer the people's questions or convince them. Accordingly, we decided to meet with you again. You should get used to brevity because time, as we have said, does not wait for you and lost time will not be repeated. Therefore, learn to be brief in your questions and in expressing yourselves. When an audience is so large—60 comrades are here—it will be illogical for one comrade to take 15 minutes to ask a question. This would leave no time for others to speak. Every comrade asking a question should be brief and should learn how to convey the idea clearly and briefly, be it a question or answer.

We will begin by listening to your questions. The questions I want to hear should deal with the affairs people bring to your attention, but which you doubt you can answer accurately or convincingly. This is what I want; otherwise, I do not want to hear any questions. I want to hear those questions the people posed to you, but you were unsure whether you were accurate in answering them or were unable to answer them in a manner that would convince the people of the soundness of our position and course and the details of the steps taken.

I believe this is now clear to you, and I hope none of the comrades will be displeased if I stop him when he digresses. I will then ask another to speak. Any comrade wishing to speak should state his name and then ask his question.

Commenting on remarks by one of the comrades that the people are concerned about the issue of security and the economic situation, the leader president said: This is a general talk. I did not say what questions the people are asking the party; I said what questions are asked for

which you cannot give convincing answers to the people. What is meant by the economic situation? This is a general talk.

When another comrade said there are rumors about thefts and crimes, the leader president interrupted him saying: No, I do not want to hear rumors, but facts. In this meeting, I will not allow anyone to tell me there are rumors; I want you to tell me facts. When another comrade inquired about the services rendered by the Baghdad municipality, the leader president asked: Has the mayor of Baghdad not met with you? When the comrade said no, the president asked the Baghdad mayor, who said a meeting with the party branches is being coordinated. The leader president then said: There is a difference between coordination and putting the comrades in the picture. Baghdad is the center of all developed services in all of Iraq. If the comrades are not well aware of Baghdad problems so that they can assess what is legitimate and what is not, the people of Baghdad will be very displeased with its mayor. The people will then dismiss the mayor from his post because he is serving under the conditions of war and they want services from him. These people measure things in comparison with what existed in the past. Not all of them remember we are under an embargo and war. Who can remind them of this? It is the party. Thus, if the party does not know the problems of Baghdad mayor, it will not be able to defend him. This is so because the party is instructed to defend only the one it knows. When the minister of agriculture does not explain his problems to the party, the party members will be in the dark and will not defend him, not because they do not want to do that, but because the problem is not clear to them.

Addressing himself to the mayor of Baghdad, his excellency the president said: You ought to have requested that your comrade, the member of the regional command, arrange a meeting between yourself and comrade members of the the branches so you could respond to their questions the way one does with journalists in a question-and-answer format.

The Baghdad organizations could compile questions about this or that topic and then call in ministers or minister-level officials to address these questions. This could be arranged on the phone by secretaries to party organizations. I do not like for this to be handled through correspondence as has been the case up till now. In the past, we limited ourselves to notes scribbled by comrades on slips of paper. The way things stand now, there is too much paper work and you are virtually absent from the mundane concerns of day-to-day life. Let us reverse the trend: less paper work and more action.

All that you need is pen and paper; but let us cut back on correspondence shuttling back and forth between government bureaus. After all, what are telephones for? They are not there for flirts, are they? You just lift the receiver and call the regional party secretary and ask that he set up a meeting with, say, the minister of health. The latter would then be asked to meet with the Baghdad party command at such and such an hour on such and such a day. In order for the minister to be prepared for you, it would be a good idea if he had advance knowledge of your questions, because he might want to approach government officials to provide precise and adequate answers.

If things were OK in Baghdad, the situation would be healthy elsewhere in the country, and vice versa. I happen to know as much from experience; I was once in charge of the Baghdad party branch. In a speed many governorates then, the party was virtually non-existent. Party members were there all right, but the party per se was not, nor was there proper organization. However, we felt the party existed as long as the Baghdad party and the military organization did.

Accordingly, the more complex questions are asked in Baghdad rather than in al-Najaf or Salah-al-Din. This is because complicated questions of a social, economic, or even technical nature come up in the center Baghdad rather than in Irbil and or Maysan, for instance. Only when the party is fully informed about everthing will it be in a position to provide leadership. Access to facts is key to leadership. One cannot swim before one has acquired the necessary skills.

In order for party members to be able to answer questions from and lead the public, they need to be up-to-date on facts. If facts prove to be less than palatable to this or that person, the persuasive powers of party members will then have to be brought into play, and malcontents will have to be convinced that, under the circumstances, they will have to settle for what is available. But to be begin with, facts must be presented for what they are. If these facts prove convincing, well and fine, and the next step would be for party members to impart enthusiasm to the public and call its attention to the unusual circumstances of the homeland and the nation.

From now on, this is the way we should be conducting ourselves in Baghdad. Suppose a party comrade, having compiled questions, still cannot provide quite satisfactory answers. He will then want to seek expert advice, and get in touch with the minister concerned directly or through the Iraq Command secretariat. The procedure should be documented with the Iraq Command secretariat to prove that such and such a minister was hosted on such and such a day to address such and such a subject so that the fact may become part of the history of our party activity.

Having heard comrades ask questions, his excellency the leader president said: It is now my turn to answer the questions.

The comrades asked questions about the economy and rising and unstable prices.

The former Soviet Union, Russia at present, and the CIS have on their territories approximately all the raw materials they need. They also have heavy industries, and

experience well-known problems in specific areas of their light and consumer industries, whether in terms of self-sufficiency or quality. The only other problem they face is the lack of grains. They have no other problems. They have oil, gas, iron, and coal, and all the components needed by modern industries. They also have vast areas of land and much water. Had their affairs been well organized, they would have been able to at least achieve near self-sufficiency, if not complete self-sufficiency, in the field of agricultural products.

This is the situation in the former Soviet Union, Russia now, and the CIS. They are not under siege. Let us make a simple comparison to help you make your own decision since such comparisons are among the methods used to convince people.

While the Soviet Union did not enter any war, the ruble's rate of exchange against the dollar dropped by 100 percent, yet the Iraqi dinar's value fell only tenfold at most. This means that the dinar's current value, as compared to the dollar, is ten times lower than its value before 2 August [1990].

Before 2 August, the dollar used to be exchanged on the free market for 3 Iraqi dinars. Now it exchanges for 30 dinars per dollar. Therefore, its value has decreased only tenfold. The Soviet Union's currency decreased a hundredfold.

The devaluation here was only tenfold. It was only tenfold in a country which had waged a war and which was attacked by all the aggressors about whose might you know, not to mention that this country is completely under siege from air, land, and sea. In the former Soviet Union, the currency was devalued a hundredfold while they experienced no siege.

Before the war, we used to import potatoes, onions, garlic, and vegetables, such as eggplant and others. Suddenly, our country found itself besieged from air, sea, and land. It is a country which had no self-sufficiency in the production field. When we say that Iraq used to even import onions, this means that it had no self-sufficiency even in the field of agriculture. When we say that our country used to import all these items, this means that it had no self-sufficiency in the field of industry as well.

When the private sector controls commodities, the law of supply and demand, as you know, prevails.

Economists have spoken a lot about this. We want you to be aware of the economy and economic facts. You should read articles, look for specialized economic magazines, and read them. Some believe that everything revolves around the economy. As for us, we have our own course of action. But since we live in this world and are not isolated from it, and so long as we are part of a world which views economics as the focal point of life, then the world will certainly deal with us on this basis. Unless we adapt ourselves to this concept, we will fail to appropriately deal with this world.

Therefore, you should take up reading. The question is not difficult. All that any individual needs is to concentrate on reading for two years. Then he will be able to assimilate things. We do not want you to become economic experts, but we want you to understand economy as it is impermissible for you to remain ignorant about basic economic facts.

The private sector tackles any commodity from the perspective of the law of supply and demand. The blockade decreases the supply. The quantities which had been imported are depleted with time. The scarcer the commodity, the higher its price. One of our decisions in this respect had been to specify what items should be banned before a certain date. Why this decision? Because we realize that demand for these items will increase while supply decreases. This will increase their price. Then only a few would be able to purchase them. This would cause a feeling of frustration among others. Since our people are dear to us, we will not allow anyone to feel frustrated if we are capable of protecting them and our economy.

We have tried to draw the attention of private sector merchants, and we noticed that these merchants, or those who call themselves merchants, have increased in number and that the list of those who have entered commercial life has also increased. You know the reason and under which circumstances this has happened. Therefore, we concluded that merchants, or the majority of them, no longer control themselves or fix prices for available commodities to make reasonable profits under a situation where their country is facing a serious destiny—to exist or not to exist. We know that it will continue to exist, with God's help, no matter what happens. It will certainly continue to exist according to its path and to the will of its people. Still, the dangers surrounding it made it wonder if it will exist or not?

When the homeland—and not the regime, one person, or 10 people—faces such a question and the citizen does not show a sense of nationalism, what words can we use to describe him? In this case, many people have the right to describe him as bad, or give him another description he deserves.

The longer the imported commodities remain in Iraq, the more expensive they become because of the fact that they are not produced in locally.

Regarding the local, national side, we can say that locally produced commodities cannot meet demand, at least in terms of quantity. At the same time, we should give workers in the socialist industrial sector an encouraging margin of profit to promote both quantity and quality. If that profit margin is insufficient, due to a drop in the purchasing power of people who do not work with them, the ambition of that worker or engineer to promote production will weaken as a result of the decrease in his profits. Instead of working in the industrial sector, he will look for another job in another field, such as opening artificial waterways or selling vegetables. We want him

to work in the industrial sector. Therefore, we have to provide a healthy profit margin for him to continue working in this sector. Otherwise, we cannot get the clothes or food we need because agriculture does not provide ready- to-eat food. It provides grain that must be milled and processed.

So, there is a connection between food and industry, as well as between clothes and industry. To produce fertilizers; to promote agriculture; to produce means of irrigation; to manufacture equipment needed by agriculture, including pesticides, we should have advanced industry. We said this a very long time ago. There was a slogan in 1975 that our country was agricultural and not industrial. I said no. I said our country should be both agricultural and industrial, and at that time I explained why.

Therefore, if the commodities produced by the socialist sector remain unchanged and do not move forward in harmony with a number of factors, including healthy profit margins for workers in the industrial sector to enable them to be more active in the industrial sector, we will not be able to provide the commodities citizens need.

Therefore, prices of commodities in the socialist sector should change, especially when the commodity produced by this sector does not meet demand. This means that there will be a margin for the so-called black market, and those who do not need the commodity will purchase it in one way or another—legally or illegally. Then, because he does not need the commodity, he will put it on the market at a higher price. As a result, there will be more and more links, which are referred to in economics and social life as parasitic links, which do not produce and which are unnecessary for distribution under any circumstance. These links are created by a particular circumstance, and should disappear under normal circumstances, when there is a balance between demand and supply of the commodity, in terms of quantity and quality, so that the profit cannot corrupt people who do nothing other than move the commodity several times from place to place and from hand to hand. This will corrupt them. We want the financial profit of a person to depend on his real personal effort to serve society, and not as a parasitic link. Such corruption represents great harm to our society.

What is it that corrupts society? This is because the margin of profit is very high when we compare the price of a commodity based on the law of supply and demand with its price, which is lower when sold in the socialist sector. Whenever we reduce the margin between the price of the commodity when it is sold and its real price in accordance with factors related to it, the number of parasites in society decreases. This is the reason for the change in some commodities' prices in the socialist sector.

So, we have explained why prices go up in the private sector, but we have not explained why prices do not stabilize. They are not stable because of the outbidding, with which you are familiar, and because of assigning a value for the dinar which is not its true value. Dealers in the private sector think that $1 is now worth 20- 30 dinars. Since the margin fluctuates like this, one statement might make the value of the dollar drop to 16 dinars. Therefore, the value of the dollar when it was worth 30 dinars is not its real value. Since we are experiencing such a situation, prices are expected to fluctuate. Prices go up and down. It is in the hands of the private sector. As for the state, there is no change in prices, because when we say that the dinar is worth a certain amount then this value will not change, unless a decision is made to change the price.

To end this fluctuation, prices must be reasonable when they go up or down. This is because prices are not always reasonable when they fluctuate. Sometimes, prices are not reasonable when they, for example, go from 30 to 16 dinars. This means that the price went down by almost half. Why does this happen?

Usually, under stable conditions, the drop or rise should be 5 percent or 10 percent maximum. This would be reasonable. But when prices change on the same day, for example, when the supply price in the evening is different from the supply price in the morning of the same day by 50 percent, then this is illogical and unreasonable.

Why do we increase the prices for agricultural products? Agricultural production is not socialist. This is because we have a peasant or a farmer, one of them works on his land, the other in investment, and if their work is not rewarding, then they will not produce.

Is it better for a country under siege to buy a loaf of bread for half a dinar or not to have that loaf of bread at all? Certainly, the answer is that it is better to buy it for half a dinar. So we pay half a dinar as long as we are under siege. Even after lifting the blockade, we will deal with matters related to the purchasing power of citizens one way or another. But we should not let the value of agricultural production drop below the limit which makes it a rewarding business, to obtain a certain amount of production that is not subject to fluctuation. Any nation which seeks to ensure the foundations of its national security in a correct manner must understand that one of the most important foundations of this security is that its food should be available. This is because if we ask someone to fight, he will fight; if we tell him to make more efforts, he will do that; if we ask him to fight and make more efforts, while we do not have a loaf of bread to give him, then he will tell us that he cannot do it. Life cannot go on this way. But if you ask this person to fight and work hard, without giving him natural silk to wear, then he will do that, because you can tell him: Your father and grandfather did not wear silk. You wore silk only after this revolution, but before it you used to wear a scarf and other types of dress. Now you have worn silk, and because we made you wear silk, aggression came to you. We had planned to make you wear a heavy bedouin-style overcoat made of silk over

your other silk clothes, but aggression came to you. Therefore, you should now fight once again while wearing national costume so that life would once again go according to your noble objectives.

I spoke about this particular aspect as only a single point. But our objectives are not linked to life's material temptations. Rather, they are linked to the great edifice we have planned to establish for us and for the nation, so that we would be a model for humanity, God willing. It is natural that whoever builds a great edifice leads a luxurious life. But this luxury should be the result of one's sweat and efforts, and not the outcome of parasitic activity, as this name now applies to some quarters of our people under the blockade. This description also applies to some states, which I consider a parasitic phenomenon in life, since these states have sold everything to get a silk dress, provided the foreigner approves of this conduct.

There is a mixed industrial sector. It is composed of the private and socialist sectors. Its products are also sold at high prices. This sector should take into consideration the private sector's interests since it is not a purely socialist sector. It is an experiment to combine the private sector's incentives and flexible management with the power and momentum of the state, in terms of investments or other potentials, to see what economic model could be adapted to better serve the country's interests. If we do not pay attention to the conditions of the shareholders, then this or that company will be liquidated because the shareholders will then say that the state deals with their activities as a mixed sector and profits in the private sector are higher. Then why is the state bringing pressure to bear on us? They will then say: Let us liquidate this company and transfer our investments to the private sector?

This being the case, we must take into account the interests of the mixed sector, if not all of these interests. We must take them into account in a balanced manner, so as to avoid the liquidation of the company and this model.

I have thus replied to the first question. Is there anyone who needs further clarification? Now, since I have replied and everything has become clear to you, I expect to hear one month from now, when I walk the streets of Baghdad, that you have convinced the people. If you fail to convince the people, then this means there is fault somewhere. The fault will not lie with the people but with you. Do we not have the right to say this? Is this not fair?

That is why I am meeting with you again after such a short time. This is because what I told you was important, but what I am saying now is even more important.

There is talk about bribery existing in state establishments. I cannot deny this because we have had several cases. There are people who are now standing trial on such charges. This means that such a thing exists. Comrades, I warn you. You must explain to the people that such generalizations are unfair. One of the things I do not like about the Iraqi people is that when they become disturbed, they start to generalize. This is something which pains me deeply.

Generalization is the only thing I have not liked for a long time and still do not like, and it continues to pain me. I do not like this trait in the vast majority of our people making general accusations. I have asked myself about the historical and social reasons for this trait. I think I have found out why. Although I have come to understand these reasons, I still get disturbed by this state of affairs and I do not want our people to maintain it because it is unfair. For example, let us say that there is one or maybe three, five, or even ten bad people. God forbid, in one quarter of a city. Let us say that they are in al-Karradah, al-A'zamiyah, al-Kazimiyah, al-Shaykh Ma'ruf, or al-Shaykh 'Umar, then we cannot say that all the people in that quarter are bad, or that the people of al-Kazimiyah, al-A'zamiyah, or al-Fadl are not good. It is impermissible to say such a thing. We must say that there are only 10 bad people in this or that place. That is how one should describe the situation.

Who are the state employees? You are those employees. When we say that state employees can be bribed, then we are speaking about you. How can we make such a generalization? Can we do this in such a manner? You are employees of the state, you are the people, you are the members of the party and you have been ruling for a quarter century. All of you are part of the state. Therefore, you must say that there are only some bad people employed by the state who have a lowly conscience and accept bribes. This is the sound manner in which to speak about this.

If we continue to speak about this in general terms, our people will come to accept the fact that everybody is bad. We want to discard all that is bad from our people. Some newspapers also act in the same manner. This is impermissible. We must give specific names. We must say that this person, who is an assistant director in this establishment is one than can be bribed. We should assume our responsibility in this respect. We must be good citizens and write articles about him and tell the people that all those who want proof of what we say should refer to this or that person, in this or that newspaper. This is the correct and responsible thing to do. This is what a society of strugglers deserves.

However, if 10, 20, or even 30 people do not act properly in an establishment, we must not say that all employees of that establishment are bad. This is not fair. In a society where justice prevails, there should be no such oppression.

This is the kind of practice to which we should habituate ourselves as Ba'thists. This is because Ba'thists should have no unscrupulous members in their midst. If the Ba'thists were unjust, who would then administer justice? It is up to the people to establish justice on earth, and, having assumed this role, it is a matter of course for

the Ba'thists to be fair to the people. Otherwise they would be doing a disservice to themselves.

Just as important, one ought to have courage and report any case of corruption to the authorities. You may argue that such a citizen may himself wind up in trouble. My answer would be this: Of course, and that is what struggle is all about. Have you ever met a true fighter who has shunned sacrifice? A fighter eschewing sacrifices hardly merits the name. A true fighter will take risks on behalf of that in which he believes. We must, therefore, exhibit fortitude.

Let our description and diagnosis of things be accurate. We must identify offenders and then bring them to account. In your party organizations, you should identify bribe-takers and gather evidence to back up the charge. You have received an advisory on this issue—a bulletin discussing the relationship between party and state. We can assume that you are now aware of its contents and that you are aware of your responsibility. In other words, a party official who is a branch member cannot assume the duties of the mayor of the capital, but can criticize him when he thinks the latter has made a mistake. He can also approach him one-on-one, or criticize him at a mass rally or party meeting. One can criticize the minister of finance, the minister of trade, the minister of health, the minister of defense, the minister of foreign affairs, or the minister of interior. This is my idea of party functionaries. On the other hand, for a party member to adopt a neutral stand and separate party and state affairs, makes him neither a government nor a community leader. This is the leadership role of the party. A party member should not sit in his office and tell the district officer to step down so that he may take over from him. When a district officer commits an error, a party official should offer him advice and if this went unheeded, he then reports him listing his presumed mistakes and specifying the dates on which he cautioned him. For instance, he will have to report that on such and such a date, he approached the branch member or his superior about a given topic. He will, for instance, note that on such and such a date, he requested a meeting with the governor, or that this or that district officer has outgrown his usefulness for such and such a district. This is the way the party should work.

Another point: Who is responsible for corrupting officials? The corrupter and the corrupted alike are accountable before God and the people. The corrupter is no less evil than the corrupted. Such people have no principles, or, at any rate, at times fail to be checked by principles. Let us assume someone offered to bribe a government official. He can either be upright, refuse the bribe, and denounce the offender to the authorities, or succumb to temptation and deviate from the right path.

We should take care to enlighten those who are too weak to resist temptation to accept bribes. I believe that those who bribe should receive a harsher punishment than the one who takes the bribe. In all cases, a government officer should receive no mercy, since he is supposed to be a guardian of state property and values. He should not be let off with a light punishment. It is not a question of you versus us; we are all in it. That is how it is put sometimes. For example, someone may say that car theft is rampant nowadays, but, suppose a car thief was caught and then executed, the informer would join the thief's relatives in crying over him. Is that not true? So, what are we to do? We cannot be all things to all people. This is not possible. Even with so much disaffection over inflation and merchant greed, when a few people were punished by the law, some people began talking incoherently like children.

What is the solution then? Are these true mujahidin? A mujahid keeps his word and is truthful to his folk. A mujahid's actions are dictated by his principles. What does he want? Does he want to take the side of the poor? If that is so, he must always keep in mind that he has chosen this path. However, if he wants to align himself with exploiters, then he has no place among the mujahidin. When he seeks the people's protection from thieves, he should not cry over the thieves when they are caught and executed. He ought not to join the thief's family in mourning him. Rather, he should have told his family: When the thief used to bring ill-gotten money, you should have refused to share that money with him. You should have thrown him out. His wife should have told him: Unless you return this ill-gotten money to its owner, I will go to my parents. But, only when it is too late, she says: I have seven children. I tell this woman: Why did you not remember these children when you led your husband to steal so that he may buy silk, shoes, suits, and luxury cars? Didn't you think that one of these days he would fall in the trap and be executed? You ought to have remembered that then. But now you remember your seven children and now you are asking: What am I going to do with them? It may be that this woman is 70 percent responsible for her husband going down this slippery road. I am saying this for the Women's Federation to hear it. Responsibility for the deviation of many a man may be laid at the door of a woman. But is this to exonerate men who contend that they have been endowed with many attributes? If that is so, how did men come to be lured into wrongdoing by Eve? They have no excuse as long as they have gone astray. They must face the full rigor of the law. The mujahidin must support the law as long as they are convinced of its justice. It is disgraceful that they should vacillate the way prices fluctuate.

If we want protection from thieves, we must be on the side of the law. If we want protection from the greedy, we must take the side of the law. We must not be one thing today and a different thing tomorrow.

I am not speaking just in general terms. I have examples to recount. I know that those who want to assume leadership roles must be firm and resolute. They should even have resolute looks. One who now grows whiskers and then shaves them off is not fit to be a leader. Likewise, one who changes his appearance—say grows a

heard now and then shaves it off—three or four times a year cannot possibly be a leader.

If shaving one's hair or letting it hang loose matters, it is just as important for a leader to know that he is resolute and steadfast. He must always be prepared to say out loud this is right or that is wrong as the case may be. He should not shift positions between what is right and what is wrong all the time. Such a person is not cut out to be a leader. In any case, he is no Ba'thist, even if he claims to be one. A human being may make mistakes, but there is a world of difference between making a mistake and switching sides all the time between what is right and what is wrong. Let us go back to issues that relate to the current stage, comrades. We promise that we will legislate laws that should provide protection for the community. On your part we expect you to observe the law. It is not for us to enforce the law. This is a matter for judges in the courts of law. Investigators should be fair and put the law into practice. A policeman apprehending a suspect must apply the law. And you, as a party, are responsible for seeing that the law is observed by all of these.

How do you go about being a responsible citizen? You do not do this by going to a court of law with a club in your hand to order the judge to apply the law. If this were to happen, he would tell you that he is not a subordinate of yours, and chaos would ensue. Under such circumstances, there will be an absence of responsibility. However, if you happened to be friends with the judge, and also happened to be a Ba'thist, this is the way you would be expected to behave: You would tell him: Sir, I have heard that you are a good man, and that you are a man of repute. It is a shame that you should act so as to tarnish your good name. If what bad things I have heard about you prove to be mere rumors, thank God this is the case. This is the way you should approach him. When he denies the report as he heard it from you, and then he fails to convince you of his case, you hold a pen and paper and tell him: Look what I am going to write about you. Let him know what you are about, since you are not a thief and there is nothing for you to be afraid of. Whoever tells him that so-and-so has written a report about you is base and no Ba'thist. He is a thief in the party. This is because the secrets of the party must be as honorable as our honor. You must approach one who informs about writing a report as a thief in the party, and give him just one chance. You must do so not by giving him advice but by freezing his party membership for one year.

You then tell him to start on a new level, as a member of a group, or as a member of the base so that he can try once again to improve himself. If he repeats the same thing, dismiss him, and tell him: This party is not for thieves but for strugglers and honest people, and we do not want you to remain in our ranks and spread news about outside the party and the party's hierarchy.

You have misused many matters, particularly your zeal for the party. You have noticed how kindly I talk to people. You heard me tell people that as soon as I discover a better way than the Ba'th Party, I will adopt it in public and without any hesitation, while I am in this position. Any party without zeal will not achieve its goals. Notice the two cases which I will clarify to you.

Some questions and answers may intermingle because we do not meet every day, although I wish there was time for us to meet every Iraqi from Zakho to al-Faw, visit every house, and see every Ba'thist so as to influence them and help them become Ba'thists. But time has its limits. The day consists of 24 hours, and the hour which goes away today will not return the next day. I would like to say to you all the things that I believe are good for you, O comrades, because I do not separate you from the people, except in specialty and duty. You are leading the people for their own good, and the people behave for their own good. So, we take interest in you because we love the people. If we all do not pursue the right path, we cannot serve our people in the best way.

Once I met with a party comrade. There was also a number of party members and a non-Ba'thist. The latter said something that angered me, but later I blamed myself for my anger and told myself that I had to be a little mild, although my position was right.

I used to meet with party members and supporters not through the hierarchy because their conversations are very useful. I ask them about party matters. Let me now violate the hierarchy order only to acquaint myself with certain things. I usually meet separately with one, two, or three comrades or supporters in an unofficial atmosphere. We talk to each other while walking. I pose a question and he begins talking more freely than he may do during a party meeting. I usually hear matters that are useful for you, for me, and for our march. I asked one of them: How did the party assess the Regional Congress on Ba'thist solidarity in life? He answered: It was excellent, but I am afraid that we may not be able to make these funds reach the right people. To your surprise, I immediately expressed my anger. I spoke harshly to him and without any introduction, I told him: This is the behavior which has created negative phenomena and weakened the party. I also said: In the past, when we heard someone attack a party member, we felt as if he were attacking his own sister, who is also a sister of all Ba'thists. That was how we behaved, and that was how we voiced our zeal and concern for our party and the Ba'thists' reputation. We treated them harshly when they deviated, but we protected them from slander. How can you talk before a non-Ba'thist and say that the person who was sitting with us could have become an enlisted Ba'thist and that in order for him to become that Ba'thist within the organized framework, he should have become a party member. By such words, you distanced him from the party and he will say that if a party member cannot trust his comrades over such an issue, there must be a defect in the party. Zeal for the party should return, and zeal for the party is more important than losing a party member because without it, there will never be a regulated party.

Let us say that circumstances of poverty, wars, and siege, lead to bad habits, but their size and impact depend on the sort of educators and the level of their ability to deal with them through preaching and the law, and not through preaching alone. Preaching without law cannot achieve the required results. Therefore, you can affect people in light of the example you offer. If colors intermingle, the situation will differ. If bad elements intermingle, matters will differ. But if the party remains lofty and pure in international standards, it can correct all its mistakes, but first it has to avoid the sources of evil and evildoers.

Perhaps you recall that back in 1970 or 1969 I asked you to take care who you took as a friend. Now 20 years on, I would say that not a few among you have been less than choosy; in the past one used to be more selective as far as making friends was concerned. Now matter how close a friend was, he was given to understand he should ring the door bell before he entered your home. And one did not enter a friend's home if the latter was out. A friend was something like a brother. Suppose so-and-so was in prison, and a friend of his called at his home, he would ring the door bell first and then ask his wife: Sister, can I help you with anything while your husband is away?

This is my idea of a friend, and this the kind of friend you should look for. Now, however, friendships are made on mercenary grounds. One chooses for a friend someone with whom he has entered into a business partnership, say a textile factory, or a poultry farm. This is hardly friendship. A true friend is one with whom you share principles and values. He need not be a Ba'thist, but he must be truthful, gallant, and honest. Such are the attributes of a Ba'thist's friend. A Ba'thist's friend is not one made through a business partnership. With such traits as these, even a non- Ba'thist will effectively be of a Ba'thist background. Formerly, we used to approach people to win them over to the Ba'th Party, or we were approached to be won over to the Ba'th Party. Do you see the difference between now and the past? Now, people make friends not so much to have a salutary effect on others as to enter into a business partnership with them.

Can you ask a branch member or teach him how to go about choosing his friends? If you discover that a branch member is ill-suited to the membership, caution him, and if that fails to bring about change, punish him. Can you do that? I would very much like you to do it, and I wish you success.

With such a line of action, there is nothing that a Ba'thist cannot do, both at home and abroad.

If you begin at the beginning, you will do the right thing and thus be able leaders. Given sufficient self-confidence and faith, a capable leader can unassisted move immovable rocks.

To the best of my knolwdge, car thieves are taken to court, and many of them have been sentenced to death.

Comrades: As party members, you are responsible for security in your own areas. You haven't been called guardians of the homeland for nothing. If you do not measure up to your responsibilities, you will be called to account by the people.

I am telling the people now: If the party members do not deliver as guardians of the homeland, let us replace them.

Why cannot you protect the people from thieves? Why do you expect the under-equipped police force to do the job? The police should act as a back-up force for you rather than the other way round. Aren't you dutybound to be guardians of the homeland?

How could a citizen of Baghdad be a true Ba'thist if he did not see action? Do we have to see combat to qualify as true Ba'thists? We are pursuing peace and construction, and we seek the furtherance of the wellbeing of our people. If a Ba'thist is not exposed to tough choices, then there is nothing to set him apart. If he sleeps and eats just like others, then there is nothing to set him apart. Nor would he be a true Ba'thist. How can one be a true Ba'thist if one does not distinguish oneself as a fighter? Such a person is not a Ba'thist. As Ba'thists, you have to excel others, above all in the area of sacrifice. For instance, when a non-Ba'thist is asleep, there ought to be four Ba'thist neighbors of his standing guard outside, so that if a thief comes to steal his car, they will apprehend him and hand him over to the police to take legal action against him.

The police are doing a good job, but a Ba'thist must impart to them the notion that though he is not a policeman himself he is fulfilling a duty.

I have already asked you to get organized in your work and spelled out how to go about it. Having asked them whether they have done that and received a negative response, his excellency the leader president said: You see?

If we outline procedures and then you fail to heed instructions, what use is talking? I talked to you, citizens of Baghdad, at a gathering before the regional conference. This means that age has caught up with you. I cannot but come to the conclusion that one who fails to be dynamic or to act on the instructions of the highest party authority must have grown old and, therefore, be replaced. I would like you to give thought to my words and act on them.

The president then spoke to the secretary saying: Henceforth, Brigadier General'Abd Hamid, you must inform the Interior Ministry in case of any theft in any sector that lies under the authority of this group or that section in order to take such an incident into consideration while evaluating the command of the section or group in that area. In such a case, the elections will not benefit this command, because when one is elected as a member in the command of a group, we will drop his name and tell him: You should protect the homes of the Iraqis, and you

are not suitable for this position because you were unaware and asleep when you were robbed. In the past, it was shameful if a theft occurred. The people used to be ashamed if the house beside them was robbed when their neighbor was not at home.

Why have these values started to weaken among you? Are these not the Arab values, and are you not the ones who are carrying the flag of Arabism? This is the zeal of men even if they are not Ba'thists. I acquired it before I became a Ba'thist when I was a mere young man in the countryside of Iraq. I used to hear men speaking about it.

Therefore, go back to these values and do not sleep when the people are sleeping. O people of Baghdad do not Baghdadize [become like people of Baghdad]. I mean by this what the people of Egypt refer to in films when they say: "Brother, don't Baghdadize". It seems that Baghdad had been the center of the world, and its people used to be discontent with their food, drinks, and behavior.

Therefore, become guards in order to grow in the eyes of your people. Man can err in this or that subject, but when the people see that they have a guard, they feel safe, and when they feel safe, they avoid many mistakes providing that the guard is an honest one. In this case, the people will say that this trait should not be denied, and we cannot forget how, we when sleep, this Ba'thist guard, who is a member of the group's command, does not sleep at night, guards us like a lion, and protects our properties. So become guards in this way. He who does not become a guard is not a Ba'thist. Become guards of your people.

This is the reality. The siege has prevented us from importing cars at a time when there is a need for cars, and when many Iraqis have a great purchasing ability to the point that the price of some cars has reached 2 million dinars. And then, when a man with weak faith and with weakness in other traits sees the 2 million dinars moving in front of him, and when he sees that what separates him from possessing the car is just to sit behind the steering wheel, then he may become weak to the point of committing this crime.

But who should prevent him from committing this crime? It is you, in two ways. The first is through entrenching his morals so that he may not be involved in such crimes, and through reminding that one day he will be trapped, and no thief escapes the trap. He will either be arrested, or a member of his family will become sick, and he will spend all the money he stole. Then, he will become bankrupt and he will be humiliated by Almighty God. And then, he will be like a fox, and he will start begging and saying that he has children and he has to take them to school.

Almighty God warns against robbery and similar crimes, and you have to shield them when you speak with them about high values, and when you watch them because when they see an iron stick in your hand while you are roaming the streets, they will not come. When they see that you are always ready with your arms and guns, the thieves will not come. But when they see you sleeping, they come to steal a car or anything else, similar to what all weak people do.

I have recently heard talk about some criticized phenomenon at the cooperatives, and heard two comrades who spoke about this subject, but so far no one has provided me with anything on this case. Today, a comrade presented a subject in which he said that there is confusion in distribution. From what he said, I understood that this confusion causes injustice in distribution. From where have the cooperatives' employees come? Are they not from the people?

You are also required to urge your comrades in the cooperative societies to apply their principles. They know their principles. If they do not know their principles, teach them. May God help us if there is a party member who, to date, does not know the party's principles. However, let us be tolerant and teach him and remind him of these principles. He may have become a party member by accident. Therefore, we should remind him of the traits of a member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, including caution and accuracy. In other words, he should learn accuracy. The party teaches Ba'thists how to be accurate in performing their duties and how to achieve the objectives of the Ba'th Party. Had it been possible to achieve the Ba'th Party's objectives through any other party, there would have been no need for our party. In other words, we would have established a forum to spell out orientations. However, the state cannot set up a forum. Thus, since such a person has become a party member, we should teach him accuracy.

What is meant here is accuracy in performing the duties of the Ba'th Party. If there are party members in state departments or involved in any activity and have not learned accuracy, let us help them to learn accuracy. This is because inaccuracy, especially at difficult times, may drive some people to make undesirable judgments concerning citizens and party members. A fair person cannot but be accurate.

Something else: how can you say that someone is a Ba'thist, but not fair? This is illogical. If it is said the someone is a Ba'thist who committed such and such mistakes, all mistakes can be tackled. But if it is said that someone is a Ba'thist and not fair, and that another is a Ba'thist and a liar, this cannot be tackled unless the Ba'thist returns to sincerity and fairness. Right?

When a mistake takes place in cooperative societies, we should draw attention to it. If the mistake persists, then write to the party and tell it that there is a deficiency in so-and-so cooperative society. This is because I lately extended large-scale support to the cooperative societies. I will relay to you what I have told them. I told them that they should distribute all the local textile that we produce so that it would not go to parasitical circles which raise prices. They have been instructed to add a minor margin of profit and sell it to the people.

These societies have imported potatoes and onions. Imagine that! The Iraq of Mesopotamia is importing these two staples. What an erroneous agricultural policy! We, not others, are responsible for this.

Those who imported the two staples are from the Ministry of Trade. Had the two staples been given to the Ministry of Trade, it would have been unprepared to handle them. In other words, we say that the importation order was exceptional and took place under certain circumstances. Large quantities were imported. If they were given to merchants, their prices would have soared. This is because merchants would sell them to brokers. Therefore, we instructed that the imported quantities be given to the cooperative societies. And that is what has happened. There is a possibility that the quantities received by the cooperative societies were large, and that at a certain stage they were unable to absorb them. Thus, there has been confusion. This confusion led to unfairness in distribution. This is understood. However, if that happened because of other reasons, this should be pointed out. This is because we support honesty and accuracy. We cannot support any dishonest formula. Rather, we will look for alternative formulas and personnel, who will be taught accuracy.

Tell them that so-and-so has said this. Tell them not to rest assured. This is because we are ready to understand everything except what contravenes the interests of the people. This is because food, together with security, constitutes one of the most important interests of the people. Security has a wide scope, ranging from personal security, property security, to security in everything.

You should bring that to their attention and help them. In other words, you should urge your comrades to play a leading role wherever they are in the societies. They should play a leading role in orientation and enlightenment, and they should assume a leading role marking the error and deviation and a leading role in combating deviation and tackling errors. Sending small quantities of commodities to cooperative societies and selling them to the consumer directly, not through a broker, is a feasible formula. This is because commodities would be sold at lower prices to those who deserve them rather than to brokers, who sell what they buy. However, because the societies are linked to one head—a formula which I have been reconsidering for two weeks—defects take place. We may consider an arrangement for the cooperative societies, each within its own governorate, so that when a defect, God forbid, takes place in a society in a certain governorate, the defect would not extend to other governorates. I have been considering this issue for the past two weeks, and this is the only way through which we can resolve this situation.

First, it is our duty to warn them.

Comrade Fawzi Rashid wants to say that the societies had announced on television that they sell these commodities to all the citizens. But when the crowd rushed to buy these commodities, the societies served their members first, and the others had to wait.

Comrade Nizar al-'Azzi suggested that these commodities be studied so that they can be listed on the ration card. We can ask the trade ministry to study the incorporation in the ration card of any commodity which the citizen actually consumes. As Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih says, such commodities must have the trait of continuity. I understand continuity to mean that any commodity without this trait will be destroyed before it reaches the consumer. For example, they used to distribute cigarettes within the ration card while there are non-smoker families. Why then are they being given cigarettes? It would be better if cigarettes are only distributed to smokers. Once, they distributed a 4-meter piece of cloth to each family. There are cases where this piece would not be enough for one person, while in other families there would be only a baby needing only 2-meters of cloth. If the latter family takes the entire piece, there would be a surplus of 2 meters, which could be used for shining shoes, for example. Thus, the ration of another citizen might be wasted.

This is what made us say that some commodities must be distributed by the cooperative societies. We should not give up a specific framework or formula which in general proves to be a success but which contains minor flaws. On the contrary, we must seek to develop them and support them, pinpoint the flaws and correct them.

For example, I made a statement suggesting the idea of independent cooperative societies in every governorate and that they should not be centralized. This means that the Baghdad cooperative societies will have nothing to do with the cooperative societies in other places, and the same would also apply to the Maysan cooperative societies, for example. The management of each of the cooperative societies would then deal directly with the trade ministry, the industry ministry, or the parties that import commodities or from which these societies buy their goods. This is better, because to have all cooperative societies come under one head, or one management is time-consuming and there can be no efficient control.

Comrade Khalil Ibrahim spoke about the increase in rents, and its negative impact on the citizens. This is true. I have read about this increase in Baghdad and other cities. We do not need to reemphasize that there are price increases in the country for the basic reason we have mentioned, and which is known by all the Iraqis, that is the blockade. The blockade has an impact on the quality of the services and their prices, and on the quality and prices of commodities. With this in mind, we must discuss two things: The first is that we cannot raise the price of sesame and maintain the price of cotton as it is. It is impermissible to raise the price of potatoes and not rice. We cannot also raise the price of wheat and not barley. These are some examples from the agricultural sphere. We cannot raise the price of cotton textiles and maintain woolen textiles as they are, and these are examples from the industrial field.

Why? Because any increase will affect investments and the movement of capitals and will transfer investment interest and human efforts from one place to another, or from one commodity to the other. Those who want to invest in agriculture will study the market, see that cotton plantation is, for example, more profitable than any other, and this will make them plant cotton. Let me explain this to you in detail so that in turn you can explain it to the people. When an investor has a five-dunnum piece of land, he will wonder what to plant it with. When he sees that if he plants it with corn he will make 5,000 dinars profit and if he plants it with cotton he will make a profit of 3,000 dinars, then he will certainly plant it with corn.

We are a besieged country. We need corn, sesame, and cotton. We also need wheat. What are the most important things to us in the scale of priorities? The most important thing is food. When the citizen complains about the lack of eggs, we tell him that we are being besieged. When he says we have no fat, we also say that we are besieged. When he says there is no meat, we say we are being besieged, and he understands that. However, if somebody says there is no bread, we cannot tell him what we have told others. This is because the lack of bread means death. Therefore, bread comes first. When it is made available, all other things, despite their importance, remain less important than bread. The price we offer for bread should remain high. In other words, we should encourage the farmer to plant wheat more than cotton, sesame, and, sometimes, even barley. A citizen wants to eat [bread made of] wheat rather than barley, unless forced by necessity. We might eat corn instead of wheat if it is not available, or we might eat barley. Therefore, when we set prices—even if we go wrong—we keep in mind a scale of priorities. Is it not better to have such a scale? If there is no cotton, your factories do not work, neither would they be able to weave for you or produce textile or anything else. If there is no sheep, there will be no wool. Right?

Ba'thists should know all these matters, and should continue to pose questions. If they see a shepherd, they should ask him why meat is expensive. I say had I been a shepherd for a week, and had I lived in a tent on cold nights and when winds blow away the tent and my children begin to cry under the rain, I would have seen the difficulties facing the shepherd. Only then, can I understand why sheep have become so expensive. We do not know the difficulties that face the shepherd while raising his sheep. Therefore, if a person from Baghdad sees the conditions in which the shepherd lives, he would suggest that the shepherd be paid more.

The Ba'thist must watch the peasant, shepherd, engineer, philosopher, and university professor. He should encourage them to speak about their problems so that he can become aware of them. This is because if the Ba'thist knows the problems of the society, he will be able to do everything, as Ba'thists rely on God, who helps the faithful and the sincere who serve other people.

We return to the question of rents. If there is no balance and when we cannot meet people's needs, the interest would shift from one goal to another. Then our boat would hit solid ground. This is not what we want. We want our boat to continue sailing, God willing. If we lower the rents now, then who would invest his money in building an apartment? Nobody. This is because investors would move to agriculture, and we would have barley in excess of our needs. Now, we have plenty of barley; the season is good. The wheat season is approaching. Therefore, an investor would shift to agriculture, and he would thus build an apartment.

After bread, what comes next? Clothing, of course. Man must have something to wear, without which he would be like prehistoric man. Therefore, food comes first—security is important of course. What after clothing? Man must have a place in which to live, with a door and defined boundaries, be it rented or owned. If private money does not move to help the state in building apartments or houses, then where would citizens live? Therefore, rents should remain profitable so that life can continue; man cannot survive without a place to live.

This is the basic rule of all our criteria with regard to all that we consider expensive or cheap. We should keep in mind all these matters that we talked about. However, in Baghdad and some other cities unusual things took place under the circumstances of the war. I will explain this to you.

After what happened in the north, many left the north for safer cities. Baghdad remained the safest city under all circumstances when many areas were unstable. I would not forget al-Anbar, which comes first in terms of security, followed by Baghdad. Right? Then come other cities, such as Salah-al-din, Diyala, and Mosul—no, fighting raged on the outskirts of Mosul. Thus, people began to leave the north to safe areas. The place which provided more safety and more facilities for those who have money was Baghdad. Therefore, a big human wave arrived in Baghdad from the north. If there were 20 available apartments and 100 families competed to rent these apartments, would rents not become higher? They would.

During the chapter of treachery and treason, the aggressors committed tyrannical aggressions against our people in the south. There were attacks on women, attempts on people's lives, and attacks on property. Whoever managed to reach Baghdad made the journey to ensure protection for his money, honor, and life. This is because the people there experienced ghastly circumstances. Afterward, a new wave of southerners arrived in Baghdad. In such a situation, when there are 20 houses available for rent, while those demanding to rent the houses are 500 people, do we not expect an increase in rents? Of course, we do, because rents do increase.

On the other hand, the level of the services being rendered in Baghdad and life in Baghdad are better than they are in all other Iraqi cities. This is a fact. This is the

status of all capitals. Paris is in better shape than all other French cities. Similarly, services in Washington are better than in all other U.S. cities. The same thing goes for Moscow. However, the gap is not that wide. But since our beginnings are still fresh, we began our modernization endeavor in the capital city of Baghdad. We were determined to turn it into something beautiful. This was a wise decision, because Baghdad belongs to all Iraqis. When some people are asked where they hail from, they mention their home towns. But when Iraqis are asked to whom Baghdad belongs, their answer is: To all of us. We all say that Baghdad is ours. Anybody whose financial situation becomes in good shape thinks of moving to Baghdad. This is a big problem. That is why we imposed restrictions on ownership in Baghdad, saying that the people allowed to own property there are exclusively confined to those who have birth records there dating back to 1977 or earlier. But this measure proved to be useless, because people still come to Baghdad to rent there.

There is no world state except Iraq, where one quarter of the population lives in the capital, whereas the remaining three quarters live in other cities and rural areas. Baghdad has a population of 4 million people right now. Had we not put controls in place, Baghdad's population would have been more than 5 million. This creates numerous social problems. When the migration to the capital city takes place in big waves, the capital dwellers cannot absorb these waves, neither socially and economically, nor in terms of the services rendered or the cultural activities offered. This situation produces many problems. This has caused a rise in rents and in property prices, as some people have begun to lend others cash and obtain from them bills of exchange so that the latter may purchase houses and register them in their names in return for commissions. I heard about this development, which caused a rise in real estate prices.

Real estate prices increase whenever rents increase, and not only when there is competition for ownership. That is, even when there is no big competition for ownership—but when there is competition for leasing real estate property and when there is a high rise in prices—this leaves an impact on real estate prices. In the same vein, when clothing prices increase, rents increase. When wheat prices increase, the people working in the services sector obtain higher wages.

This means that there is an interconnected life cycle and that there is mutual dependence between various aspects of life.

Commenting on some remarks made by a comrade regarding the exchange rate of the dinar, the leader president said: The exchange rate of the dinar against the dollar has become well known. This issue is now on the minds of many people. Some people are saying that the dollar is now exchanged for 30 dinars. My question to them is the following: For how much will $20 be exchanged, if the exchange currency were to be the dinar?

After that a member of the audience said: It is worth 600 dinars, his excellency said: How many dinars does one get for $30? When the answer came that $30 are worth 900 dinars, his excellency said: Can one live decently with a salary of 900 dinars? He can live in a decent manner. Now, if we give that person $30, the equivalent of 900 dinars in Baghdad and tell him to go and live with this sum in Washington, would he be able to do so?

The audience replied that he would not be able to live on such a salary. His excellency then said: Then the comparison some professional people have made is false and unrealistic. With 100 dinars here, which are equivalent to $3.33 we can buy this quantity of goods. But with these $3.33 we cannot buy the same quantity of goods in England, which has the same quality and the same brands we buy in Baghdad with the 100 dinars.

What does this mean? This means that the comparison between the purchasing power of the dinar and its rate of exchange against the dollar is false. Most of this comparison is false because it has to do with a a certain frame of mind and with propaganda and has nothing to do with the actual value of the currency in the real economic sense of the word.

The president leader said that Comrade Ishaq had asked about the north. He asked about our policy toward the north. I would like here to quickly sum up our stand on the north. The north is our people. We belong to the people there and they belong to us. In terms of land, the north is part of Iraq. Anything else is void. However, you all have witnessed the circumstances. They wanted to maintain the bleeding in the north and to make our people there bleed so that they can peddle their objectives. Their objectives are very clear there. We said: Let us withdraw the army and the state bodies, because state employees cannot perform their duty when things have reached such a lowly level. Many violations have been committed, and the bodies of martyrs have been mutilated. I met many people who told me so. Most of those who were killed or whose bodies were mutilated were Kurds and not Arabs. Arabs were killed because they are Arabs but Kurds were killed by the evil ones only because of their stands and behavior. I also heard stories about our Kurdish people that make us proud of how they behaved and acted whether toward Kurds or Arabs who were pursued by the criminals and the mobs.

Therefore, the land in the north is ours, the same as the land in al-Nasiriyah, or the land of entire Iraq. The people in al- Sulaymaniyah are our people, the same as the people in Baghdad. We are following all that is taking place there. We are not ready to lose Iraq in the trap that has been set by the traitors and foreign parties. We will never give up our responsibility toward our people in the north and toward the land there. God willing, our people there will once again be part of the pride, stability, and happiness that the entire Iraqi people—Arabs and Kurds are forging. This is what I say about such borders.

Convey our greetings to your comrades. I want you as you go out of this meeting not to forget what we have said here, and to implement it. If some of you are not convinced with what was said, let them come to me and tell me they are not convinced with this or that part of what Saddam Husayn has said. I am willing to either be convinced by them or to convince them.

Saddam Visits Air Force Headquarters

JN2811152492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1504 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has visited the Air Force and Air Defense headquarters. The president was received and seen off by Staff Air Force Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, and a number of senior Air Force and Air Defense Command officers.

Army Reportedly Preventing Return of Refugees

LD2811145992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] The Iraqi regime is preventing the residents of al-Tannumah from returning to that town. During an interview with an IRNA correspondent, an Iraqi opposition source said: The Ba'th military have blocked entry routes into al-Tannumah; they have positioned themselves on the town's streets. They are preventing the return of Iraqi refugees who left the town last winter following harassment by the Iraqi Army.

He said that the reason for this is the participation of the residents of al-Tannumah in the Islamic uprising of the residents of the south against Saddam's regime. Al-Tannumah is one of the smaller towns in al-Basrah province.

Opposition Carries Out Antigovernment Operations

NC2811170592 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] In defense of the sons of our brave Iraq and in retaliation to the oppressive practices of the tyrant and his henchmen against the inhabitants of the marshlands in the south, a jihad group carried out a lightening attack against criminal Ahmad Muhammad, a captain in the Air Force military intelligence, a few days ago. This outcast formerly worked at the airport near [words indistinct] and currently in the Saddamite Air Force in al-'Amarah. The captain was seriously injured and two of his mercenaries were killed in the attack, which was carried out by our heroic mujahidin in [words indistinct]. Our military sources report that this intelligence captain served the tyrant's regime by searching regions and [words indistinct] against citizens.

In another operation in response to the calls of our besieged people in the southern marshlands and [words indistinct], a revolutionary group from the sons of our rebellious Iraq planted a time bomb in the office of the director of the al-Yarmuk electricity department in Baghdad. The explosion killed this Saddamite criminal and Ihsan Mahmud, who [words indistinct] al-Yarmuk Ba'thist team. The two are the most prominent 'Aflaqite elements in [word indistinct] for their major and clear role in arresting many people of the region, especially young [word indistinct].

Regime Said Planning To Kill Opposition in London

NC2911161492 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Our radio has learned from reliable sources that Barzan al-Tikriti [Saddam Husayn's brother] sent a private message to Qusayy Saddam Husayn, who is now responsible for the private guards, inquiring about his earlier proposal to assassinate opposition leaders, figures, and personalities abroad. The same sources added that Barzan al-Tikriti urged Qusayy to ask the tyrant about the fate of his proposal to assassinate opposition leaders. The sources stressed that elements and agents affiliated to the tyrant's oppressive intelligence service are moving cautiously and waiting for opportunities to revive their criminal and sabotage activity in the British capital. The sources noted that Barzan al-Tikriti believes that the time is ripe to liquidate eight Iraqi opposition leading figures abroad.

PUK, KDP Political Bureaus Meet in Salah al-Din

NC2911175692 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, accompanied by the Political Bureau members of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], visited the premises of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] Political Bureau in Salah al-Din at 1045 yesterday. They were received by Mas'ud Barzani and the KDP Political Bureau members. After a short rest, the PUK and KDP Political Bureaus held a joint meeting during which discussion centered on the current conditions in Kurdistan amid steps to confront the problems facing the citizens.

The PUK and KDP Political Bureaus affirmed their support for the agencies and establishments of the government of the Kurdistan region. The joint meeting lasted until 1700.

Spokesman on Power Failures in Autonomous Region

JN3011113792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] An official spokesman at the Industry and Minerals Ministry has appealed to our Kurdish people in the

Autonomous Region to monitor the acts of vandalism and sabotage carried out against electricity networks in the region and to stand firmly in the face of perpetrators. Commenting on the current power failures in the al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil Governorates, the official spokesman said in a statement to INA today: In our statement published in the media at the end of June 1992, we warned that electricity networks in the Autonomous Region were being subjected to vandalism and tampering. This resulted in the failure of three of the four lines which supply al-Sulaymaniah with electrical power. We warned that should any problem occur with the fourth line, this city would face total darkness and the entire area would be deprived of electrical power for an unknown period of time.

The official spokesman added: Regrettably, what we had predicted five months ago came true and the city of al-Sulaymaniyah has been facing an electrical shutdown since 2036 on 24 November 1992. The deterioration in the electricity supply is due to the reasons which we warned of. If some agent cliques, which are supported by foreign sides that are plotting against the country, had not dismantled and stolen major parts of the pylons and wiring of the Karkuk-al-Sulaymaniyah lines, al-Sulaymaniyah would not have faced a total power shutdown.

The spokesman added that the Irbil Governorate was also exposed to a power failure on 25 November 1992 from 0745 until 1845. This is in addition to partial and continuous large-scale failures because the Dokan-Irbil and Dokan-northern Irbil lines have been sabotaged and parts of the pylons vandalized. This caused the pylons to blow down in windy weather.

Minister on Supplying Food to Kurdish Region

JN2911170492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has asserted that his ministry is continuing to provide foodstuffs for citizens in the Autonomous Region's governorates, in accordance with the same system used in the country's other governorates, in that foodstuffs are dispatched under ministry supervision to areas under state control in Duhuk, Irbil, and al-Sulaymaniyah Governorates. Every month, he added, the ministry makes sure that shares are distributed among citizens after examination of the coupons presented to ministry agents. Regarding the areas under the administration of terrorists, agent cliques, and allied forces, the state sends citizens' food rations by truck every day to these governorates under the supervision of ministry employees in the Autonomous Region. However, most of these foodstuffs are seized illegally by terrorist and agent elements, thus stealing them from the citizens.

The minister also said that such terrorist measures are aimed at preventing foodstuffs from reaching the sons of our Kurdish people in the Autonomous Region so they can be illegally traded and used to give the evildoers and aggressors justification for their continued aggression against Iraq. He also pointed out that the ministry has prepared a comprehensive working plan to directly intervene within 72 hours of the departure of terrorists and foreign forces from areas outside state control, to distribute foodstuffs to the sons of our Kurdish people in the farthest points along our borders with Iran and Turkey, just as happened after the chapter of treachery and treason when the agents and traitors destroyed and burned food stores in those governorates. After purging them of the filth of the traitors, the state made extraordinary efforts to secure food for all citizens in the Autonomous Region.

The minister also explained that in the next few days, the ministry will deliver new ration coupons for 1993 to the ministry's branches in the Autonomous Region to be distributed to citizens, according to the same system used in the rest of Iraq's governorates. Meanwhile, truck convoys are continuing to transport foodstuffs to the sons of our people in Irbil, Duhuk, and al-Sulaymaniyah Governorates as part of a plan to secure food for the people.

Concluding his statement, the trade minister held the U.S. Administration, Britain, France, the traitors, and the foreigner's agents responsible for the death of children, women, and the elderly, as well as for the suffering of the sons of our Kurdish people resulting from these sides' flagrant interference in the Kurdish people's domestic affairs, including their support for the agents and terrorist cliques.

Rabin Addresses Newspaper Editors on State Goals

TA2911145892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1230 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Editors Committee on the anniversary of the UN Resolution on the partition of Palestine at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Today, when I look around, I ask whether history is repeating itself. When I read interviews with 'Arafat in the Israeli press, as well as his other statements, while at the same time observing the policy of the present government, which understands that a compromise is necessary if we want to achieve peace—not one that would place Israel's security at risk, but a compromise nevertheless—I ask myself whether the events of 1947 to 1949 are not repeating themselves. The Palestinian leadership—from the days of Jerusalem Mufti Shaykh Hajj Amin al-Husayni, through Ahmad al-Shuqayri, and right up to 'Arafat,—has always demanded either all or nothing—whereas at that time the Israeli approach has been to settle for a Jewish state, even if in only part of Israel, and to express a readiness for compromise so as to establish a Jewish state while maintaining peaceful relations with the Palestinians and the Arab world. Today, you can hear the Palestinians actually repeating the same historic mistake they made when they rejected the partition plan and failed to exploit the opportunity they had between 1948 and 1967 when the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip were under Arab rule. Have they learned nothing? As things appear today, I fear that their leadership continues to pursue the policies of Jerusalem Mufti Hajj Amin al-Husayni. This is the question.

From certain aspects, we have to confront historic and political anachronisms on the Arab side. I will put it simply: the moment the Jewish people rightly decided that the Jewish state could only be established here in Eretz Yisra'el, we also chose our neighbors—the Arab and Muslim world. We now face two choices: We can try to achieve a peace that will enable us to implement the goals of the Zionist movement, which are to bring a majority of the Jewish people to Eretz Yisra'el, inside the State of Israel, and to form a society and an economy that will be—if not a light unto the nations [Isaiah; 49; 6]—then at least a small light unto the Jews. The second alternative is to live by the sword, in a state of continuous war. Shall the sword devour forever? [Samuel 2; 2; 26]

We, the present government, have decided to try to exhaust the chance for peace. Not only in words, but also out of an understanding that peace requires mutual compromise. Since the establishment of this government, this understanding has found expression in the positions presented by the delegations in the negotiations with Syria, the discussions with the Palestinians on a transitional period as part of an interim accord, and of course in the talks with Jordan and Lebanon. There is a saying in the Middle East: You only need one party for a war whereas peace requires two partners. I believe and hope that we have started moving on the road toward peace, and that all of us, both the Arab side and Israel, have passed the point of no return, if not with everyone than at least with those who are our interlocutors for peace. However, efforts to make peace are not enough. The continued existence and strengthening of the State of Israel does not depend on the Arab side.

We prefer to implement these goals while striving for peace. We will do so under any circumstances, even if we do not attain peace with every element in the Arab world. In any case, we will have to maintain a high level of military power for many years. In the Middle East, international agreements are not the same as the Bible or the Koran. We need but recall how just a little over two years ago, an Arab country, Iraq, invaded, conquered, and annexed another Arab country, Kuwait, in contravention of all Arab League inter-Arab agreements, and in contravention of all international law. Therefore, first of all we must be militarily strong. In my opinion, the precondition for any Arab leader to conclude that he must adopt the way of peace is his realization that the military balance and international circumstances deny him any chance of achieving his goals through military force. Only when he reaches such a conclusion will he seriously adopt the way of peace, even if his main motive is the promotion of his country's interests.

Second, we must implement the goals of Zionism: strengthen our economy, achieve greater social cohesion, and bring more Jews to the State of Israel. This should not come at the expense of Israel's non-Jewish citizens, who should enjoy full civil rights as citizens of the Jewish state. Who has suffered from racism, anti-Semitism, and discrimination as much as the Jewish people? If there is any lesson to be learned from Jewish history it must find expression in our attitude to the non-Jewish minority. As the ancient adage goes: we should not behave like arrogant upstarts. [passage omitted]

To avoid any misunderstandings, I am not inviting more U.S. intervention beyond that which already exists. Would the Madrid conference have taken place if the United States had not orchestrated all the activity which went on prior to its convention? Is the United States not following the peace negotiations today? I think that it is appropriate and right that the Israeli and Arab delegations are holding direct, face-to face talks in the same room, but what about what goes on outside the hall? Even at that level, the Americans did not intervene before the gap between the two sides had been narrowed. Therefore, I think that the peace negotiations are following a path upon which Israel and definitely part of the Arab delegations have passed the point of no return.

As for the economic-social sphere, much more depends on us. We have decided to change the national order of priorities—not only with regard to the political aspect,

but also to the practical side of things. The question is where and in what we should invest our country's resources.

First, we have decided that the government should invest in physical infrastructure. For example, we lag far behind other countries in the field of transportation.

Second, in human resources, in education and all related fields. To my great regret, investments will fall short of the desired rate in 1992 and 1993 because there are certain economic and social impediments that must be dealt with first. There has been a tremendous wave of construction in Israel, but in the meantime it has obligated us to invest 3.5 billion shekels in purchasing empty apartments. I estimate that we will need to allocate another 2 billion shekels next year to buy empty apartments. We also have problems in the public health sector and with the Histadrut Sick Fund.

Third, we have problems with the military industries. In my assessment, in 1991 and 1992, the defense industries lost, or to put things more judiciously, will need between $300 million and $500 million in aid to survive. They will also have to cut back on the number of their employees. The world is no longer purchasing arms. Up until the 1990's, about 70 percent of the defense industries' sales came from exports. Today, they have nobody to sell to. The world is cutting back on its defense expenditures, or at least those parts of the world we have relations with, because after all, we are not about to sell weapons to Iran or Iraq.

Fourth, there has been a rise in unemployment. Although I am both prime minister and defense minister, I intend to be involved with economic-social issues. True, I am not an economist, and maybe that is an advantage. It is an advantage for someone who deals with the economy's problems in the more general, managerial sense. [passage omitted]

Answers Questions on PLO, Germany

TA2911150892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1315 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Question-and-answer session following Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's address to the Editors Committee on the anniversary of the UN resolution on the partition of Palestine, at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Hanokh Qeynan] An interim arrangement means, in any language, an arrangement coming between the extant arrangement and the one that follows it. If the prime minister sees a possibility for a Palestinian political entity after the interim stage, why does Israel not speak with the PLO? If there is no room for a Palestinian political entity even after the interim arrangement, then what are we talking about? Thank you.

[Rabin] In my view, the first part of an interim arrangement is supposed to alter the current reality between us and the Palestinians. The objective of the interim arrangement is to allow the Palestinians to manage their affairs in every sphere, with the exclusion of the responsibility for the Jewish settlements, the responsibility for their security and well-being, and the responsibility for national security. I do not believe that there is any need at this point to agree in advance on the nature of the permanent solution. No one, not even the Camp David accords, rules out the Palestinians' right to say today that when they negotiate the permanent solution they will demand all they please.

I am convinced, however, that if an interim arrangement is instituted for a transitional period, and if in parallel we make progress toward peace with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, other possibilities concerning the existence of some Palestinian entity will arise, although not necessarily that of a state. Not every minority in the world—not even in Europe—has a state. We have seen what happens in federative systems, such as Yugoslavia, when the framework falls apart. Other solutions may exist, but in the meantime, let us make a beginning.

Now to the other point: Why are there no negotiations with the PLO? Because at this point the bilateral talks are focusing on the interim period, and for that the Palestinians in the territories are the addressees. Moreover, the present government, contrary to the previous one, has decided to participate in two multilateral committees: one on refugee affairs and another on regional economic affairs. As it happens, I preferred to see representatives of the Palestinian diaspora on the refugee affairs committee, rather than residents of the territories, and I will explain why. The problem applies to refugees living outside the territory of the Eretz Yisra'el of the British mandate, and I wanted to prevent a linkage between the solution of the problem of refugees in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon. I don't know where else—there are no more Palestinians in Kuwait....[Rabin changes thought] When Kuwait expelled 300,000 Palestinians, I heard no one in the world utter a sound. Everybody was expelled from Kuwait, and most of them are now in Jordan. So, we did meet with diaspora representatives in negotiations on the refugee issue, as well as in negotiations on the economic issue. In the latter, both diaspora and non-diaspora Palestinians participated.

Furthermore, the PLO is led by 'Arafat. First of all, I see him as well as quite a few Palestinians holding views differing from his, both in Tunis and in the territories, as obstacles. But, you know what?—I understand his personal motives. Suppose there is an agreement on an interim arrangement, elections are held, and an executive body is elected—ISGA [Interim Self-Government Arrangements], or autonomy. This body will have power; it will be in charge of the lives of 1,800 Palestinians—the second largest Palestinian congregation. [voices in audience alert Rabin to error] What did I say? Yes, sorry, 1.8 million Palestinians. It will have budgets and it will hope that the world—including Arab countries—will furnish it with funds that will suffice for

infrastructural investment. Now, what will that do to PLO-Tunis? I do not wish to draw parallels with our own history, but it will be in the position of the Zionist Federation—not that they are the same, not at all, and I apologize for the comparison. He understands that he will be left without power or strength. Therefore, it is natural...[Rabin changes thought] I understand this [reference to the Zionist Federation] will be the headline of tomorrow's press. [laughter and applause] I apologize for the parallel. Well, he will represent the expatriate body, while the local body will represent the main power. I understand his reasons for opposing the interim arrangement.

That is it. Well, I have at least supplied you with a headline for tomorrow. [laughter]

[Former DAVAR editor Hana Zemer] On the basis of the available information, do you fear or suspect that the German Government is not facing reality, or that it is not addressing it appropriately?

[Rabin] We are witnessing continuing racist, neo-Nazi, anti-Semitic riots in Germany. The Israeli Government, as the government of the Jewish state, sees itself responsible for the life of every Jew wherever he may be. For that reason, the government today passed a resolution sharply condemning the neo-Nazi and racist manifestations in Germany. They are not new, and therefore, the government continues to demand that the German Government take measures permissible under German law to address this phenomenon much more thoroughly. The government supports the German elements waging a struggle against this phenomenon. The government remains vigilant to anti-Semitic manifestations everywhere, not only in Germany. Someone has said that when anti-Semitism rises, it assumes the dimensions of an epidemic. We have seen manifestations in Sweden, France, as well as other countries. For that reason, we see ourselves duty-bound to monitor, alert, and demand steps from every government in whose jurisdiction these things occur. The history of 60, of 50 years ago is not so distant. These things did not happen 400 or 500 years ago. Therefore, things must not be allowed to develop; they must be nipped in the bud. The snake's head must be smashed while it is small. We take a grave view of these phenomena, and as the government of the Jewish state, we see ourselves duty-bound to demand action against these manifestations.

The prime minister said Israel is prepared to permit in the territories elections for an executive body, not a parliament or legislative council which embody the makings of a state. We offered the Palestinians a lot, he said, but 'Arafat will do everything to foil the peace.

[Begin Rabin recording] You heard 'Arafat's speech several days ago. It proves how much he, more than any other Palestinian in Tunis and in the territories, is the obstacle to peace. It is also clear why. Just imagine an autonomy being set up, there are elections, a leadership is democratically elected among the inhabitants of the territories. What will 'Arafat do in Tunisia? He knows that his clout will diminish, that his status will be harmed. [end recording]

The prime minister said Israel is prepared for much flexibility in the territories without abandoning the settlements, their security and the safety of the inhabitants.

In referring to the French president's remarks in Jordan that the PLO has degree of legitimacy, Rabin said that there are those in the world who think differently.

[Begin Rabin recording] The French president has his view; that his right. I am glad that America and other countries think otherwise. Even the Russians are today willing to insist on sticking to the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference, the format of the talks, and those who participate. [end recording]

The prime minister said that for the time being President al-Sadat has been the sole person in the Arab world who has taken a dramatic step and through his actions transmitted a message to his people and the world calling for peace.

[Begin Rabin recording] Has al-Asad done anything similar? I have not noticed it, but I believe that even he knows that there is no alternative to peace. The Palestinians definitely know it. As to the Jordanians, if you happened to hear the news, the king announced that he cannot reach peace without a prior comprehensive settlement or the start of a real settlement with the Palestinians. I am not pessimistic. I believe we have started along the path that will lead to peace. I suggest that you test us a year after the start of the talks conducted by us. [end recording]

The prime minister also said that the current Israeli policy has borne important political and economic fruit in foreign aid and support for programs Israel initiates in other fields.

Rabin on Stands of 'Arafat, al-Asad, Mitterrand

TA2911070192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] The prime minister says the world today accepts the Israeli position that we should not enter into territorial negotiations with Syria before it makes clear its positions on the meaning of peace. He said it is clear to the Syrians that there is no alternative to peace, and the Palestinians also know it. Shmu'el Tal reports on Mr. Rabin's remarks in Hadera last night.

'Strong Condemnation' of German Racism Issued

TA2911120892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] The government today issued a strong condemnation of neo-Nazism, racism, and anti-Semitism occurring in Germany. Much of this week's cabinet meeting was devoted to the matter, and after the meeting Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein said Israel will continue to

pressure the German Government to impose the full extent of the law to prevent racism and anti-Semitism. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein read the government statement:

[Rubinstein] The government sharply condemns the phenomena of neo-Nazism, racism, and anti-Semitism in Germany and views them with great concern. The government has acted and will continue to act in this respect in its contacts with the German Government, raising the request that the subjects be dealt with in the most serious way, and that everything necessary will be done to prevent phenomena of racism and anti-Semitism.

The government expresses its appreciation to public elements in Germany who struggle against racism and anti-Semitism. The government will continue to monitor anti-Semitic phenomena in all places and struggle against them, as requested by the needs and circumstances of each place.

[Ze'ev] Education Minister Shulamit Aloni, who had called for a boycott and perhaps other sanctions against Germany, backed down today.

[Aloni] Maybe I exaggerated by saying stop going to Germany, because on the other hand, the government and the democratic people in Germany feel very strongly against this racism. So, I was just maybe over-exaggerating. It's my reaction, but my reaction was very strong, and the government feels very strong about it as well, but they say that we have to help the German Government and to follow what they do using all the right....[changes thought] They have to do, because the German constitution gives them the power.

[Ze'ev] Indeed, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel did not want to act against the German Government.

[Peres] We distinguish between the people who are responsible for it, and the people who stood up against it. We support very much the people who stood up against it, and we call up on them to intensify their efforts. And we condemn all these ugly appearances of hatred, and maladies, and dangers. [end recording]

Beilin Opposes Boycott of Germany

TA2911071092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Do you believe that the German Government is not doing all it should to uproot Nazism?

[Beilin] We cannot say that it is doing everything it can, but we should distinguish between the anger over what we saw on television Friday on what is taking place on the fringes of German society, and the treatment of those phenomena and Israel's attitude to it. I believe Minister Aloni's proposal—although she has made it clear that it is not unequivocal—is not what should be done about the Germans. We should pressure the Germans into a more significant action, but the moves should be of a completely different nature.

[Zissowitz] I believe Israel has the right to respond differently than just accepted diplomatic paths—and that is also what stems from Minister Aloni's remarks—to the rise of Nazism in Germany.

[Beilin] First, Israel must respond; it is not just a question of having the right. That is why we are a Jewish state, and that is one of the important aims of our very existence: to warn and fight against any such phenomena of anti-Semitism, racism, etc.—however, not by government action, but through social action, and not to treat Germany as people like me demanded that we treat South Africa. There racism was government policy; here the government is trying to fight anti-Semitic phenomena, although only with partial success, and our role is to help them in this fight. I believe the aid can be given without boycotts, which is the last thing that should be done, the worst thing. The aid should be by pressuring Germans into taking legal action against those phenomena, and what is more important, through comprehensive educational action to strengthen democracy in their country—through school curricula, films, cultural events, and government demonstrations, as they doing today, in which government ministers, the German president, the prime minister participate—to show the German people that such phenomena cannot be accepted. Even if it takes place only on the fringes of society, it is more grave in Germany than anywhere else.

German Envoy on Boycott

TA2911070892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Germany's ambassador to Israel says the boycott of his country would be the worst possible blow to democracy. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el reporter Dan Eshel, Ambassador Otto von der Gablentz said this would only play into the hands of the neo-Nazis.

[Begin von der Gablentz recording] The last thing, you see, which you could do to help democrats in Germany is to isolate Germany. Nazism did happen, among other things, under the condition of an isolated Germany. Isolation helps those who do not want to have an open society, who do not want to have a democracy. [end recording]

Knesset Delegation Cancels Visit to Germany

TA3011054792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Three Knesset members have canceled a trip to Germany scheduled for this week because of the strong

feelings raised in Israel over neo-Nazi attacks and anti-Semitism. The Knesset spokeswoman said the cancellation was a protest at the Bonn government's failure to take stronger action against the violence.

The three—'Imanu'el Zismann, Dan Tikhon, and Yosef Ba-Gad—were invited by the German Foreign Ministry.

Clinton's Involvement in Peace Talks Urged

TA2711135892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation to the bilateral talks with the Syrians and ambassador- designate to Washington, does not believe that the Americans will take steps in a bid to bring about real progress in the next round of peace talks. Rabinovich has expressed the hope that the Clinton administration will show an active involvement in the peace process, but he believes it will focus on different matters. This is what he said:

[Begin Rabinovich recording] I do not believe the talks are at a deadlock. I believe that, at least on the Syrian track—where there are difficulties and problems, where our demand that the Syrians make a substantive clarification of their concept of peace has not been met yet—the dialogue between the parties is definitely continuing. Progress is being made in the face of the difficulties. That is why I would not call the situation a deadlock.

Also, we cannot ignore the U.S. political reality. This is the interim period between two administrations. An administration in its last days is not in a good position to exert pressure on anyone, especially in view of fact that this is a very essential issue. We want American involvement in the process, and we hope that the Clinton administration will show the same degree of commitment to and involvement in the process that we saw in the Bush administration, perhaps not focusing on the same points and with different starting points, but with the same level of involvement. [end recording]

Israeli Radio Interviews Jordan's Prince Hasan

TA2911065892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] In Britain, Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan has ruled out any prospect of Israel and Jordan finding their own peace agreement independent of an overall settlement. Crown Prince Hasan was responding to our London correspondent's questions in his first known official interview with any of the Israeli media. Jerry Lewis reports:

[Begin recording] [Lewis] Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan was in London at the end of last week in place of his brother, King Husayn, who had been invited to deliver the Winston Churchill Memorial Lecture to the English-Speaking Union Organization on the subject of Arab-British relations. Approached by both Israel's Radio Hebrew Service and English-language Service London correspondent at the official reception after the lecture, Crown Prince Hasan indicated his agreement to give a brief interview to us later that evening. Despite attempts by some of his advisers, suggesting that we might try to interview him some other time during the crown prince's London visit, when we met him when he left the reception at London's Guild Hall, he readily agreed to answer our questions.

Crown Prince, you said you would answer our questions.

[Hasan] Well, I will answer a question, if you wish.

[Lewis] Having again both made clear that we were from Israel Radio, my colleague asked the first question.

[Yo'av Limor] I am from the Israeli radio. Are you going to meet one of the Israeli leaders?

[Hasan] No, as you well know, there is a peace process underway and our representatives are talking directly to each other.

[Lewis] We reminded the crown prince that earlier in the month it had been suggested in Washington that Jordan might sign a separate peace treaty with Israel in advance of Israel signing agreements with her other Arab neighbors. This idea, he indicated, was most unlikely.

[Hasan] I think the aim of the peace process is comprehensive.

[Lewis] Having learned that the crown prince speaks some Hebrew we asked if he would care, in what we knew was his first official interview with any Israeli media outlet, to express a few words to the Israeli public.

[Hasan] I would have wanted to quote from the Book of Job, but I would be hesitant to do so without consulting the text, because I feel very much with the Book of Job in these very difficult days.

[Lewis] Only Shalom.

[Hasan] Shalom indeed, yes. Thank you so much.

[Lewis] However, his willingness to speak to us was somewhat overshadowed a few minutes later. When he had gone to attend a private dinner a number of Jordanian officials, including the London ambassador, attempted to retrieve my tape indicating they didn't find it appropriate for their crown prince to speak to the Israeli media, but having twice been asked by us, and on each occasion we had clearly indicated we were recording his comments for Israel Radio, we felt his greeting of Shalom should be broadcast as intended. [end recording]

Disarmament Priority Sidd To Be Long-Range Missiles

TA2911105792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Nov 92 p A1

[Report by Alaf Ben]

[Text] Israel is giving top priority to disarming the Middle East of long-range missiles and puts nuclear disarmament in last place, according to the "goals of Israel's vision" on Middle East arms control drafted for the next round of multilateral talks.

The goals were formulated by a professional team in the Defense and Foreign Ministries based on the summation of the last round of talks for regional security and arms control held in Moscow in September and prior to the next session to be held in Washington in February after the change of administration there.

The wording of the goals has still not been presented for government approval, but a draft was presented last week to senior U.S. State Department officials by Defense Ministry Director General David Ivri when he visited Washington. Ivri is also head of the Israeli team to the arms control talks.

Israel's arms control goals open by recalling Isaiah's prophecy "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Israel stresses its desire to live in peace and the importance of reducing armies and the arms race in the Middle East.

Israel's order of priorities in the disarming weapons of mass destruction in the region gives first priority to missiles and then to chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons.

The proposal is expected to meet opposition from Egypt, which gives first priority to disarming the region from nuclear weapons and is demanding that Israel open its nuclear installations to international inspection.

Israeli sources believe that after the Clinton administration takes over the Americans will give priority to arms control in the Middle East.

Israeli Radio on al-Asad's Concerns About Clinton

JN2711104492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1435 GMT 27 Nov 92

["Analysis and Comment" feature by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Several diplomatic and media reports have indicated that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is, on the one hand, disappointed with the administration of U.S. President Bush, and on the other, concerned over the incoming administration of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton.

President al-Asad's disappointment with the Bush administration is primarily due to the fact that this administration has not erased Syria's name from the list of regimes which are involved in international terrorism or those which sponsor international terrorism. According to the same media reports, the Syrian president apparently believes that he did not get an appropriate reward in return for what he offered the United States, first, by joining the allies in the Gulf war against Iraq; second, by joining the Arab-Israeli peace talks; and third, by helping to release U.S. hostages who were held in Lebanon.

Observers think, however, that in reality, President al-Asad's disappointment is unjustified. This is because after the Gulf war, Syria received very generous grants from Saudi Arabia worth several billions of dollars. Moreover, Syria's participation in the war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation rid the Syrian regime of a strangling isolation it had experienced for a long time in the Arab and international arenas.

Thus, while observers do not think there is a real justification for the Syrian president's disappointment with the Bush administration, they view matters differently when it comes to the Syrian president's concern over the incoming Clinton administration. Observers feel that this concern is justified, first, because the U.S. president-elect considers President Hafiz al-Asad a dictator and the Syrian regime a dictatorial regime. Bill Clinton made public this position several times during his election campaign without beating around the bush. Second, all signs indicate that Clinton's incoming administration will not show tolerance toward international terrorism and regimes which sponsor it or are involved in it. Obviously, all the flimsy pretexts cited by the Syrian regime to justify its sheltering of different terrorist organizations in Syria and Lebanon have not convinced, and will not convince, the U.S. Administration. Third, all signs indicate that Clinton's administration would not be less sensitive toward drug trafficking. Nor would it be less firm toward drug traffickers. It is noteworthy in this regard that the U.S. Congress issued a report this week to the effect that the Syrian Government is involved in drug trafficking, since it benefits directly from its ties with drug dealers in Lebanon, and that Rif'at al-Asad, the brother of the Syrian president, and several high-ranking Syrian Army officers, are involved in trafficking the drugs planted in the Lebanese al-Biqa' Valley.

In addition to the above three factors which justify President al-Asad's concern over the incoming Clinton administration, there is another factor which is not less serious; namely, that the U.S. president-elect is a member of the Democratic Party, which advocates liberal principles and noble humanitarian values. This gives grounds for the belief that the Clinton administration would be extremely sensitive toward human rights abuses and toward dictatorial regimes.

Soldier Wounded By Shots From Jordan

TA3011101692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] An Israeli soldier was wounded by shots fired at an Army patrol from Jordanian territory south of Kibbutz Ashdot Ya'aqov. The soldier was taken to Poriya Hospital in Tiberias. This is reported by our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Yo'av Aviv. Army forces have closed off the area.

2 Palestinians Killed in Violence in Territories

1 Killed in Gaza 'Rioting'

TA2711182992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpts] In clashes in the territories today, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers killed one Palestinian and wounded eight others. The Army spokesman says a Palestinian in his early 20's was shot dead in rioting in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza city. Five others were wounded by Army fire. Local residents identified the dead man as Ahmad al-Hasari and said his body had been taken from hospital by his relatives for burial. [passage omitted]

In the Jabaliyah refugee camp, two Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers. In Rabbah village near Janin, soldiers shot and wounded a young Palestinian man during a military operation.

At one of the entrances to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, an Arab woman was detained this morning after a knife was found in her possession. The 19-year-old woman from Ramallah admitted she planned to stab a policeman or a soldier. She had intended to carry out the deed last night, but the stepping up of police forces in East Jerusalem had deterred her.

Teen Shot Stoning Vehicles

TA2911083192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Musa Ramadan, 17, was shot dead by soldiers in Hebron this morning. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman told our correspondent Moti Amir that an IDF patrol identified the masked man as he stoned Israeli vehicles and burnt tires. The soldiers ordered him to halt and, when he refused, shot and killed him.

A home-made bomb exploded near the village of Dura, south of Hebron, when an Israeli car drove by. There were neither casualties nor damage. The IDF imposed a curfew on several villages in the area and began searches.

Palestinian Calls for UN Solution to Conflict

TA2911184792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Palestinians observed a general strike in the territories today, marking the 45th anniversary of the United Nations plan to partition Palestine. In East Jerusalem, Palestinian rejectionist groups held a press conference to voice continued opposition to the Middle East peace process. One of the speakers, Dr. Riyad Malki, of the Popular Front, urged a UN solution to the Middle East conflict.

[Begin Malki recording] Let us go to the United Nations, take the file to the United Nations, and let the United Nations reactivate all the resolutions that were passed regarding the Palestinian problem, the Middle East question. I believe this will take from the United States the sole role of sponsorship and give it to the United Nations. I think this is really very important. This will give us time to recuperate, this will give us time to reunite again, and this will give us strength to conduct the next negotiations in better form. [end recording]

Palestinian Notables Depart for Islamic Convention

TA3011110792 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Nov 92 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the Palestinian delegation's counseling team, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the delegation, yesterday left for Amman on their way to Saudi Arabia.

Al-Husayni and 'Urayqat will presumably represent the territories in the Palestinian delegation to the Islamic conference. [In a similar report on page 3 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 30 November, Aharon Barnea'a states that al-Husayni and 'Urayqat will participate in the Jeddah convention "as official members in the PLO delegation headed by Faruq Qaddumi."]

In addition to their participation in the conference, they will contact Saudi officials in order to restore the Saudi aid to the Palestinians, our correspondent has learned from Palestinian sources in the territories.

Following recent contacts on this matter, Saudi Arabia agreed to relay the aid previously given to the PLO directly to the territories. The PLO, which opposed the arrangement, has recently agreed to an arrangement under which a territories committee will allocate the aid to various institutions. The Saudis objected, demanding to choose the beneficiaries of their aid. They also announced that they intend to openly assist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] institutions. Morocco is now trying to mediate between the sides. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Peace Talks Issues

Notes 'Certain Positive Results'

NC2511210892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said Lebanon is determined to continue the peace negotiations, which he said achieved certain positive results, although they were troubled and deadlocked at times. He expressed belief that the talks can make progress in the next stage. The minister said it is important for all sides to entrench the positive results as pledges for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

Buwayz said it is likely that the United Nations and the EC, especially France, will play a new role in advancing the peace process in cooperation with the new U.S. Administration. He renewed Lebanon's refusal to participate in the multilateral talks before the bilateral negotiations make tangible progress.

On the coordination meetings of the cordon states, Buwayz said the meetings have so far managed to establish common points of understanding. He explained that the next meeting in Beirut will provide an opportunity for evaluating previous rounds and drafting a plan of action and a strategy for all aspects of the negotiations. He reiterated that peace in the region must be comprehensive.

Asked about the possibility of a change in U.S. policy after Clinton's election, Buwayz ruled it out, especially as far as the peace process is concerned. He said that some slight changes in the management of the peace process may take place without affecting the essence or the objective of this process.

Asked about his visit to Saudi Arabia, Buwayz explained that he is going there to attend meetings on Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said the visit will also give him a chance to meet with a number of Saudi officials and Arab foreign ministers to discuss the general situation and bilateral relations. He called on Arab countries to meet their obligations and prove serious in their decisions to help Lebanon out of its crisis, especially by reviving Arab and international funds to reconstruct Lebanon. He also called for a European and international role in this respect.

On the current situation in the south, Buwayz asked international bodies to speed up moves to implement Resolution 425. He stressed the need for establishing harmony between resistance and state policy so that the honorable principle of resistance will not be distorted by mistakes in tactics and application.

Urges Reassessment

NC2711185292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that it is necessary to reassess what took place at the seventh round of the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In an interview with Lebanese Television, he added that there are some signals of possible progress even though they are slower or vaguer than what is needed.

Buwayz also said that it is too early to know the intentions of the U.S. President-elect on the negotiations, noting that U.S. policy is not based on a single view but is the sum total of several policies in the United States. He ruled out a radical change in the peace process or in U.S. policy toward it.

Touching on the reasons that prevented the meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers in Beirut, Minister Buwayz said that the meeting could not be held because the Palestinian delegation is at the United Nations and because a number of the concerned foreign ministers have other engagements.

The Lebanese foreign minister said: The Lebanese side has no objection to the formation of a special committee with the Israeli side that will discuss the program for the Israeli withdrawal if Israel clearly commits itself beforehand to withdraw completely and unconditionally from the Lebanese territories in implementation of Resolution 425. He added that if this does happen, then it will become necessary to have a security committee to follow up the program for this withdrawal and supervise its implementation.

Says Talks Must Be 'Comprehensive'

NC2811135892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz will leave for Jeddah tomorrow to represent Lebanon at the Islamic foreign ministers meeting which will convene 1-2 December.

In an interview with Radio Free Lebanon's and the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation's "Dialogue With an Official" program, Minister Buwayz announced that peace either must be comprehensive or not exist at all. He noted that it is not enough for one Arab country to reach peace with Israel, because it will then need someone to provide a cover for such a decision, particularly as a popular Arab sentiment exists rejecting such a decision.

Buwayz reiterated his rejection of Israel's proposal to form a military-security committee and disclosed the official Lebanese response to it, saying:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] The latest proposal is a developed one. Before this proposal, the Israelis started with a proposal to form a military committee. I

remember that approximately one month ago—I had resigned my post but my resignation had not been accepted and I was still carrying out my functions as foreign minister—I received a faxed message in Paris that the Israelis had proposed forming a military committee. My view was to reject this proposal.

The reason was this: If the Israelis want to discuss the security situation in the south, there *is* no need for a military committee, because there is an armistice committee which can handle this issue. If they want to discuss a withdrawal timetable, then they must commit themselves and declare that they are willing to withdraw. In this case the task of a military committee would be to discuss how the withdrawal would be carried out in line with UN Security Council Resolution 425. We would accept such a committee in this case. However, they have been asking us to form a military committee, the task of which we do not know. We replied that if its task would be to discuss the current security situation in the south while the Israeli occupation continues, we would not want to form such a committee because an armistice committee already exists. We pointed out, however, that if the aim would be to discuss a withdrawal timetable, then let us hear them say clearly that the committee's task is to draw up a withdrawal timetable.

This was our position. Then came a more developed step in the form of a proposal to form a committee within the negotiating delegation—not an independent committee that can give us reason to believe that it is meant to circumvent Resolution 425 and the mechanism to implement it, but a committee within the delegation. Our answer was that we have members of the negotiating delegation who have experience, competence, and authority to discuss security issues raised within the negotiations framework.

[Unidentified correspondent] Was this the official response to the Israeli proposal?

[Buwayz] Certainly, certainly.

[Correspondent] That there are officers...

[Buwayz, interrupting] There are officers within the negotiating delegation who are authorized and have the experience and competence to discuss any issue. When this issue reaches the right point—when it comes to Israeli withdrawal—this committee can be expanded or altered, et cetera. However, if you want to discuss the security of the south with us, there is an armistice committee for this. If you want to discuss incidental security issues, there are officers who are members of the negotiating delegation. If you want to discuss a withdrawal timetable, then we are willing...

[Correspondent, interrupting] What do you expect the Israeli response to this reply to be?

[Buwayz] I do not want to make guesses. We have answers to three possibilities. [end recording]

Concerning the resistance in the south, Buwayz said it is a security act arising from circumstances. He said it represents a policy, a strategy, and the people's rejection of the occupation. He pointed out that no one has the right to deprive Lebanon of the right to resist, because this is the entire nation's right, not just that of a single group. Buwayz emphasized that resistance has several forms, not one, pointing out that resistance does not necessarily have to be limited to military operations, but can take the form of properly considered military acts that have positive results so that their yield can be much greater than their cost.

Buwayz reiterated his call for harmony between the resistance and the state, stressing that any independent act—even the most honorable—that disregards proper timing and certain facts can wipe out the basic objective. He said noble principles sometimes have been canceled by erroneous methods.

On the cancellation of political sectarianism, Foreign Minister Buwayz said that there is a need to harmonize long-term national interests and the current political situation in Lebanon, which is only just emerging from a state of war and from black and painful memories.

On the local voices demanding the cancellation of sectarianism, Buwayz said: The extremist minorities have never imposed themselves on the majority; when they have it has led to war.

He said that Syrian Vice President Khaddam's statement in which he linked the redeployment of Syrian forces in Lebanon to the cancellation of political sectarianism may have been addressed to third parties.

On the redeployment of the Syrian forces, Buwayz expressed his belief that, apart from some specific issues, such as that of the displaced persons and their return to their villages, the Lebanese Armed Forces are almost capable of imposing security and stability. He added: Therefore, I do not believe that Syria, which has helped the Lebanese state, is set on staying. He added: There is, besides the public Syrian statements, a reality that will make Damascus hand over all responsibility for maintaining security to the Lebanese state in the near future. Hence, an understanding with Syria is necessary and taking over internal security completely depends on this understanding so that it will constitute a political security agreed on and blessed by all parties.

On the relationship with Bkirki [seat of the Maronite patriarchate], Buwayz criticized the unwarranted visits that some figures make to Bkirki. He said: A number of deputies believe that the relationship with some people who visit Bkirki is not as it should be and these deputies have a positive attitude. These deputies would not have met and discussed this issue had they not believed in the need to improve the situation. He added: This criticism is limited to some of the meetings that are taking place in Bkirki. I have reservations about limiting the invitations to visit the patriarchate, which is a great spiritual center that should embrace wider meetings. He said he believed

Bkirki should not remain open in a way that enables just anyone to decide to hold a meeting there, as this means chaos. He proposed the formation of a body whose task it would be to call for a meeting when the country is facing a major fateful national issue. He called for Bkirki to return to its status as a supreme source of authority and not a sole arbitrr.

Buwayz said that his battle bears the slogan of creating a third force outside the framework of absolute and unconditional loyalty and outside the framework of absolute rejection. He noted that the current blocs in the Chamber of Deputies emerged from the recent elections and consequently are more geographic than political. He said: This situation is temporary and the personality of every deputy will reemerge and move in a specific direction. It is too early to discuss the establishment of parliamentary blocs, and the Chamber of Deputies should be given one, two, or three months to let matters evolve. The situation within the chamber on the issue of domestic alliances is still fluctuating and not final. The deputies are still under the electoral influence of their local areas. The situation has to develop where a number of political issues are raised that will entail a new parliamentary arrangement that is more national than local.

In reply to a question that the Foreign Ministry's role could be limited following the creation of a Ministry of State for Expatriate Affairs, Buwayz said: I am a proponent of having a ministry solely devoted to the affairs of expatriates, but the establishment of this ministry must be studied accurately so as not to confuse the two ministries' authorities or create conflicts between them. I do not feel at all that this will reduce the importance of my ministry, but at the same time, I will not tolerate the two ministries' authorities getting confused, which might be grave and critical, especially at this stage.

Country To Continue in Talks

NC3011065292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz confirmed that Lebanon will continue to attend the peace negotiations, especially the next round, which is a continuation of the previous rounds. He added that Lebanon has a clear stand on implementation of the United Nations' and international legitimacy resolutions on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territories.

In a statement before his departure for Jeddah yesterday to attend the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] foreign ministers meeting, Buwayz said: A full plenary meeting should be held by the foreign ministers of the countries involved in the bilateral talks. I believe the session in Jeddah will give us an opportunity to discuss a date for our meeting on the next round of talks. The delegation heads could coordinate this when they travel to Washington.

It was reported that the cordon states' ministers might meet in Jeddah on the sidelines of the ICO meeting in preparation for their meeting in Beirut on Friday [4 December] to discuss the outcome of the bilateral negotiations held so far and coordinate on the eighth round.

Al-Hariri Denies Dispute With Syria Over Troops

NC2911121492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has denied that there is a dispute with Syria over the presence of its forces in Lebanon. He declared that the two countries have an eternal relationship that will continue to be protected from personal whims and interests and from foreign intervention.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I published today, al- Hariri said this relationship is a guarantee for sovereignty and independence, and while Syria in the past few years has been a guarantee for Lebanon's non-partition, the latter has constituted for Syria a territorial extension that has shielded it from the onslaught of opponents.

He added: If we want the Syrian Army to leave at any time, it will do so. We have no problem with the Syrian Army. The Israeli presence on Lebanese territory is the problem.

In answer to a question, al-Hariri remarked that during the peace negotiations, Lebanon did not reach agreement with Israel to form a joint security-military committee. He said there is no agreement between the two sides except on UN Security Council Resolution 425 [as received]. He announced that Lebanon will enjoy no comfort or leave others in comfort until it regains its occupied territory.

The Lebanese prime minister praised Egypt's significant role in supporting Lebanon at all levels. He noted the Egyptian leadership's and people's backing for ending the Lebanese civil war.

Hizballah Decries 'Media Campaign' Against Iran

NC2811094492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Station commentary: "The Egyptian Regime and the Rabid Stand"]

[Text] The media campaign the Egyptian regime is launching against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its leadership is not too distant from the international plan the United States has masterminded against Iran to isolate and condemn it and to warn certain neighboring countries about the alleged danger Iran poses.

Washington began the campaign when it played up Iranian armament and its intention to increase interference in neighboring countries. Even Iran's ties with the Islamic Central Asian republics were described by the

United States as a form of interference in the affairs of others and as an attempt to impose custodianship over these countries, which had just emerged from Soviet custodianship. What Washington was most eager to do was to create a crisis of confidence in relations between Iran and the Gulf countries. Washington had misgivings about the growing improvement in Arab-Iranian ties and about the understanding by a considerable number of Arab countries of Iran's role, position, and responsibilities.

Cairo's involvement in this campaign has personal goals as well as goals related to the Egyptian role that is harmonious with the U.S. plan. Because of its treasonous policy, corruption, bad management, flouting of freedoms, and confiscation of political action and plurality, the Egyptian regime is confronting growing opposition from the majority of the people. There are various types of opposition to the regime, and some reach the point of confrontation. Although the arena of confrontation has spread to all areas in the cities and countryside, the Egyptian regime is determined to allege that the attacks are due to foreign intervention that aims to cause problems for the regime. Any foreign intervention, no matter how strong, cannot lead to such large-scale and comprehensive activities. Anyway, accusing Tehran at one time and Khartoum at another of being behind the incidents will not spare the Egyptian regime the condemnation of the people, who have despaired of reconciliation and reforms. The Egyptian people actually have begun to carry out radical change.

[Egyptian President] Husni Mubarak's remark that the borders with Israel are almost more stable than the borders with Libya and Sudan is mischievous and carries a connotation that condemns the Egyptian regime itself. Mubarak's remark that Iran poses a threat to Arab national security shows that this security was first blackmailed and endangered when Cairo was enticed by the illusions of the U.S. and Zionist peace and signed the Camp David Accords. Arab national security has been staggering ever since. The continued Zionist occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories constitutes the only threat to Arab national security. Forgetting this point and focusing on Iran is a deviation from and a distortion of facts.

Egypt, linked by a reconciliation treaty with the enemy, is not concerned with the basic issues. Its role is confined to attempts to make the Arab countries accept the U.S. and Zionist conditions in the ongoing peace negotiations. The Egyptian regime undoubtedly is the last party to talk of Arab national security; through its stands and acts, it undermined the foundations of this security. This regime turned into a destructive tool when it adopted U.S. and hostile views on the nature of the Arabs' and region's future. Cairo, receiving enemy [Israeli] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as it did, cannot claim or pretend that it is concerned about Arab national security. Why was Peres in Cairo while the sons of Palestine and Lebanon were being relentlessly killed and tortured by the Zionists?

Factions, Hizballah Meet; Condemn Peace Talks

NC2811085992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] The national and Islamic political forces and parties and the Palestinian factions have held a meeting at the Hizballah Political Bureau. These parties discussed the development of events in southern Lebanon and the active role of the resistance in confronting the expansionist Zionist scheme, which comes at the expense of the sons of the south and Lebanon. They also discussed attempts to assassinate Islamic Resistance leaders, especially what recently was revealed in the Zionist entity about an attempt to assassinate Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah. This meeting took place on the eve of the commemoration of the partitioning of Palestine.

At the end of the discussions, the conferees issued a statement which said in part:

[Begin recording of correspondent's dispatch] In continuation of previous meetings and proceeding from a call by Hizballah, a meeting of solidarity with the Palestinian people was held at noon today at the Hizballah Political Bureau on the commemoration of the partitioning of their territory.

The following attended the meeting: representatives of the Ba'th Party [not further specified], the Progressive Socialist Party, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party with both its wings, the Palestinian Communist Party, al-Sa'iqah, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, the Hamas Movement, the Fatah Movement [as heard], the Unified Naserite Movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Islamic Jihad Movement, the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, the Islamic Group, the Arab Socialist Union, the Naserite Popular Organization, the central committee of the youth organization [not further specified], in addition to Hizballah Political Bureau members Haj Abu-Sa'id al-Khansa', Haj Hasan Hudruj, and Brothers Husayn Birru and Abu-Ja'far.

After the meeting, a statement was issued by the conferees which said in part:

First, the decision to partition Palestine is a stab in the back of its people's cause and a step toward usurping the land and erasing national identity with the blessing of the United Nations.

Second, the conferees condemned the policies of partition adopted by the PLO leadership, such as abandoning territory, [word indistinct] the partition concept, and [words indistinct] Zionist [word indistinct]. They also condemned the Jordanian-Israeli agreement and called on the Palestinian delegation to withdraw from the negotiations because this represents the essence of the

central cause. The conferees rejected the autonomy [al-hukm al-dhati] plan and confirmed their adherence to the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and liberation of their land.

The confering forces, parties, and movements highly assessed the Iranian and Syrian stands, which represent true support for the Palestinian people's cause.

The conferees also called on all Arab and Islamic (?states) to confront the plan of settling the question of Palestine and to support the steadfastness of its people.

The statement concluded by condemning the indiscriminate Zionist aggressions against Lebanese territory and attempts to assassinate the symbols of the Islamic Resistance, especially that which was recently revealed about a Zionist attempt to assassinate Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah.

On this occasion, the conferees called for a solidarity meeting with the Palestinian people to be held on Tuesday [1 December] at 1500 in Martyr Shaykh Raghib Harb Hall at [name indistinct] Mosque on the airport road. They declared 29 November as a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people and of the unity of its territories. [end recording]

Jumblatt on Sectarianism, Iran-Egypt Dispute

NC2911093492 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] During a news conference in al-Mukhtarah yesterday, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Minister Walid Jumblatt stressed that it is necessary to abolish political sectarianism from written texts, warned of the consequences of the events in Yugoslavia, condemned Serbian behavior, pointed out the dangerous conditions in Egypt, and called for resolving the Iranian-Egyptian dispute through sober dialogue and diplomatic methods.

Jumblatt said: We pin great hopes on this government. Statements are made now and then about abolishing political sectarianism. We have heard a theory that political sectarianism must first be banished from people's hearts before being abolished from written texts. How can political sectarianism be banished from people's hearts while there are sick souls like that morbid spirit which somberly addressed the Chamber of Deputies, leveling accusations at the militias and describing them as sectarian and denominational tribes? To whom was this somber person with the morbid spirit referring, the Druze, the Shiites, or the Sunnis? Has he forgotten [former President] Amin al-Jumayyil's offenses against Beirut and his crimes? Has this morbid spirit forgotten Michel 'Awn's auspicious [as heard] liberation war or is responsibility only placed on the shoulders of Walid Jumblatt and Nabih Birri [as leaders of Druze and Shiite militias respectively]. It is true those wars occurred. Nevertheless, who overthrew the 17 May [Accord of 1983 concerning security arrangements with Israel], who is liberating the south today, and who is resisting Israel? Are not the militias doing this, or are they sectarian and denominational tribes?

Jumblatt added: I believe that sectarianism must be abolished from written texts in order to reduce the deep-rooted hate harbored in the hearts of some inside and outside the Chamber of Deputies.

He declared that political sectarianism will be abolished in the future regardless of the consequences.

Jumblatt pointed out that the al-Ta'if Accord's position is clear on this issue and that the Chamber of Deputies will form a national committee to handle it. He urged Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri to form this committee as soon as possible so that we can remove political sectarianism from the texts.

He asserted that a sick person must be so termed and that he who has sectarian or denominational complexes must be given treatment in an institution, noting that al-'Asfuriyah [well-known mental institution] in 'Aramun might prove useful in this case.

Referring to the attempted assassination of employee Hasan Ghosn [not further identified], Jumblatt warned all authorities not to deal irresolutely in investigating this incident or in catching the culprits. He said this employee is a model of honesty, good upbringing, and discipline, must be rewarded by the highest authority, and provided with the necessary protection so that he may continue his work.

The PSP leader called on Lebanon to bear its responsibilities and show solidarity with those nations who today face ordeals similar to its own days of war. Referring to the events in Yugoslavia, he praised Bishop George Khudr's position on them. Jumblatt affirmed that the war there is one of economic and political interests, not a sectarian or ethnic war. Condemning Serbian acts against the Muslims and others, he warned against expanding the war to the entire Balkans and held the United Nations and the major powers responsible for the deteriorating situation.

Jumblatt continued: A dangerous situation exists not only in the Balkans. What is happening in Egypt is more serious. We urge the Egyptian Government to conduct an earnest and sober dialogue with the opposition. We oppose arbitrary arrests and similar actions, just as the opposition says, but at the same time we cannot approve attacks on Egyptian tourism.

He called for resolving the dispute between the Egyptian opposition and government through democratic methods, not by violence against foreign tourists. He said if the situation worsens, Egypt will face collapse. He urged that Egypt be given political and financial support before matters deteriorate further and we lose Egypt entirely.

Jumblatt called for resolving the Iranian-Egyptian dispute by diplomatic methods and sober dialogue instead of allowing matters and mutual threats to become more critical.

He pointed out that some Western media are exaggerating the volume of Iran's military purchases. He added that these news reports are similar to the ones which preceded the war against Iraq and declared: We do not want a rerun of the farce. We want to protect Iran and Egypt.

The PSP leader warned against the partition efforts occurring in Iraq, announcing: Basically, we support the Iraqi citizens' right to achieve democracy and multiparty politics but oppose partitioning Iraq into areas of influence for the benefit of some oil companies or, God forbid, into ethnic or denominational mini-states.

Amal Issues Statement on Attack Against Israelis

NC2811100192 Shamayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] The Amal Movement has issued a statement declaring that the Martyr Husayn 'Ali Ahmad Group at 0815 today launched a rocket and machine-gun attack on the al-Hamra' checkpoint, which is manned by the Israeli occupation forces and their militias. The statement added that the Amal group inflicted many casualties on the other side during a 15-minute clash. Three casualties were observed at the checkpoint.

The statement said that after the operation, the Israeli forces raked adjacent fields and wadis from their machine-gun emplacements on al-Radar and al-Hamra' Hills.

Prime Minister Delivers Policy Statement

JN2711112992 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 19 Nov 92 pp 2-4

["Text" of policy statement delivered by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at the People's Assembly in Damascus on 18 November]

[Text] Mr. People's Assembly Speaker, esteemed members: There have been major international changes in the world over the past years, and these have altered and are still altering previous situations and balances. These changes have naturally had an impact on the international situation. The negative aspects of the international and regional changes have interacted with the points of weakness in our Arab situation and resulted in very difficult events for our Arab nation—events which have wasted the nation's energies and done much to disrupt and exhaust it. At many stages, Syria has been exposed to various forms of political, economic, and military pressures and to continued media campaigns to weaken its effective role and its independent will, and to force it to retreat and abandon its firm principled positions toward the pan-Arab issues, foremost of which is the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

However, through his wisdom, courage, and militant experience in confronting challenges, leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad has been able to lead Syria to safe shores by dealing with the dangerous regional and international changes and reinforcing its steadfast position and independent national decisionmaking amid various interactions and developments. Under his leadership, Syria has also been able to overcome obstacles and external and internal difficulties. Through a number of sound policies, Syria has been able to project the positive elements reflecting the national economy's ability to absorb shocks and remain coherent and steadfast in the face of pressures at all times.

Last year Syria witnessed a deep, great, and meaningful popular and national event, when the people held a referendum on the presidency. At that time, Syria's crowds and masses took to the streets and held huge marches and celebrations, in which they revealed the real face of the people—the loyal people who announced their will on the day of referendum in a popular manner that won the world's attention. They expressed in one resounding voice their confidence, faith, and loyalty to their great leader and stressed their political and pan-Arab awareness and their national unity. They also expressed their opinion in an unprecedented manner and made the day of referendum a national day, a day of absolute confidence in the leader, and a day of popular determination to follow the policy he has adopted over the past 22 years. Their unprecedented unanimity was a unanimity on the pan-Arab role; the political, economic, social, and educational line; and the democratic system under which every citizen is exercising freedom of expression. Through his institutions, organizations, unions, and initiatives, the citizen effectively participated in every decision pertaining to his life and destiny.

In this hall, President Hafiz al-Asad took the constitutional oath for a new term in office and made a speech in which he drew up the future plan with a firm, penetrating vision that encompassed yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He had the perspicacity to foresee the future development and its dimensions and the logic that blended thought with practice.

In his historic speech, the president defined for us an integrated plan of action with directives and headlines that summarized the ambitious aims of the development march, the wide horizons of the democratic system, the selected methods for practicing responsibility, and the most feasible means of economic, administrative, and financial performance, and the significant factors that are derived from our reality and homeland which is characterized by economic and political pluralism. The president explained the leading responsibilities of the National Progressive Front and the effective contributions toward building and reconstruction by the popular and professional organizations.

The president's decisive speech was a mode of action for an impending phase and a correct and honest course of action for all the ministries, establishments, and administrative bodies and productive forces and for all the children of the homeland. The president clearly explained to us the significance of Syria's awareness of its position in this region and the world, the best use of its material and human resources, and the inevitability of its reliance on itself in a world in which challenges cannot be ignored, others cannot be relied on, and foot dragging is unacceptable. The president said: Brothers, people's trust is a source of strength and the love of the masses strengthens the will to face challenges. While accepting with love and appreciation the people's decision that I should shoulder the responsibility, I am fully aware of the challenges that lie ahead—challenges that require perseverance and work. The greater the love the heavier the burden and the wider the hopes and aspirations of the people, the greater the need for sacrifices and hard work.

The government draws its programs and defines its objectives from this political, economic, cultural, and scientific, course set by his excellency the president, and in light of this course and inspired by it, the government submits its policy statement to your esteemed assembly, keeping in mind that during the many assembly sessions, the active relationship that is constantly being nurtured and enriched between the legislative and executive branches has witnessed many laws, ordinances, decisions, recommendations, and achievements. We would like to emphasize here that this active relationship will be further enhanced to serve the interests of the people in all parts of this homeland, and in a manner that will further entrench the unique democratic bases of our democratic system which stems from our people's needs.

heritage, and aspirations and embodies the values of freedom, dignity, justice, and the prevalence of the law in all fields.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in its past actions, the government has responded to the dictates of responsibility, has sought objective methods in tackling the situation of the production sectors, the bottlenecks and the difficulties, and has enhanced the ideas and concepts that achieve the best of methods to exploit resources and put to good use the available agricultural and production potentials. The government was also careful to adopt carefully studied and feasible economic, administrative, organizational decisions and measures, and through much efforts, patience, followup steps, observation, and penalization has managed to improve production and work.

In the next stage, the government will continue to entrench the concepts of responsibility and its requirements within the workers in the ministries, institutions, companies, and state organs and within the three sectors—the public sector, the private sector, and the mixed sector. The government will also work to safeguard the efforts of the creative and productive people, and of all the citizens, whatever their position, so that they may respond to the requirements of the forthcoming stage and contribute to finding solutions to the many problems and issues on hand. The government will also seek to liberate itself from any situations, regulations, and restrictions that cause delay, paralysis, monotony, red tape, or lead to despondency in the exercise of responsibilities and prerogatives. All this is to further balance financial and economic potentials, and secure better production inputs while using diversified measures and means to enhance the tasks of the various sectors so that they may carry out their role in all fields, and create an atmosphere in which every citizen will have a say and a position, and in which every citizen will contribute to development and have his share of this homeland's wealth.

It is a superb opportunity, sisters and brothers, for the government to submit this statement that explains its policies and objectives to the People's Assembly at a time when our country is witnessing massive popular celebrations to mark the 22d anniversary of the Corrective Movement, led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, who specified for Syria a comprehensive course that has its firm principles on domestic and external levels, and on the level of the pan-Arab struggle. The significant signs of that course are exemplified by the lofty economic and social edifice and honorable pan-Arab stands, which showed in the past two decades that were replete with action and achievement. Syria's credibility in commitment and sincerity in delivering the national and pan-Arab message.

Chapter One: The General Policy

Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen: In this introduction, I presented the general indicators for the work of the new government, which is considered an extension of the former government that has achieved significant steps on the path of implementing these indicators. Within the context of the domestic and foreign directions, it is important to stress the process of renewal, modernization, and development in administration, economy, production, tools of labor, and dealing with the regional and international conditions in accordance with the requirements to preserve the national interest. Therefore, based on its view of the current circumstances and based on its position, principles, and allegiance to the pan-Arab cause, Syria takes interest in making its self-reliance and dependence on its own people, resources, and economic and defensive power the ultimate objective.

Experience has taught us that Syria has a geographic location, a pan-Arab approach, and an independent position that do not match with the Zionist and other schemes in this region and its surroundings; and that the emphasis on a policy of self-reliance in all fields has proceeded, and still proceeds, from the national commitment because Syria, which has never been, and will never be, neither today nor tomorrow, a subservient to anyone, must remain strong, vigilant, and capable of achieving that goal and prepared for all possibilities.

In the light of that difficult alternative, Syria's policy on the Arab level has been, and is still, concerned for cooperation and solidarity and eager to arrive at improved political, economic, cultural, security, and defensive formulas to guarantee the establishment of an Arab order that is based on the Arab nation's supreme interests. Syria sought to boost and develop all possible formulas in the fragmented Arab situation and to develop these formulas from the minimum to higher and more effective levels to bring about, ultimately, an Arab position that has its principles, departure points, and practical means to face Israel and its plans, to treat any Arab crisis, and to deal with the international realities from a premise that ensures that the Arab fragmentation, disunity, and division would not adversely affect the single Arab interest in this turbulent world.

It was only natural for Syria, which believes in Arab unity, to be in the forefront in taking the initiative on the level of joint Arab action and the unionist struggle. Syria has been the focal point of effective Arab solidarity in the October war of liberation, which restored to the Arabs their dignity, demonstrated their power, and exposed Israel's claims of might and superiority. That war also highlighted the value of serious Arab action. Through all means, Syria will continue to pursue that role in order to provide the circumstances that would help strengthen Arab solidarity and underscore the formulas that would lead to massing and uniting the Arabs' resources in the face of all challenges.

Based on that sound pan-Arab view, Syria adopted its positions that were derived from its principles in all circumstances—in the Iraq-Iran war and the Gulf war. The results of that war and the outcome of the Gulf crisis

have confirmed the credibility of Syria's pan-Arab positions. In that context, Syria's general policy on the Arab and world levels, as well as on the domestic level, will be based on the basic principles in the following fields:

I. Foreign Policy:

The world's political map has been dramatically changed in recent years due to the end of the cold war and the fragmentation of the Soviet Union and Federal Yugoslavia into a number of independent states which was accompanied by ethnic, religious, tribal, and social wars and conflicts. These wars and conflicts were not confined to these areas alone but went beyond them to other parts of the Third World because of the collapse of the world order, which was based on dual polarity, and the failure of the single pole to establish a new world order capable of containing these conflicts in an effective way and restoring stability to international relations.

Syria has understood these significant world changes from their early beginnings. President Hafiz al-Asad spared no occasion without warning against the serious consequences and effects these major changes would have on the world situation, particularly on the Arab conditions, which worsened and deteriorated even further because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and its resulting consequences and impacts on the region.

Despite all this, Syria, through its astute understanding of these major changes and challenges, has managed to chart its Arab and international policy with great precision and confidence. Its power was entrenched and did not decline; its national unity became more established, not weaker; and its regional and international role grew, and did not shrink. All this was possible because of the wisdom and courage of its leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, who, from the very beginnings of the international changes, has repeatedly stressed that the people have potentials and sufficient energies which, at historic turning points, would come forth and bear fruit to enable the people to adapt in the face of the new challenges and strengthen their resolve and determination and national and pan-Arab decision.

In the light of the above, the foreign policy that will be adopted by the government on the Arab and international scene can be summed up in the following:

1. The Arab Scene:

Syria will continue its efforts to rectify the Arab situation and do all that it can to unite Arab ranks and enhance solidarity among Arab states to remove negative phenomena that obstruct joint Arab action.

Syria will also pursue its policy to enhance the role of the Arab League and activate its institutions, and emphasize the importance of adhering to its charters. Syria will also pursue struggle to achieve Arab unity as it is the noblest objective aspired for by the Arab nation, out of its belief in its one history and shared destiny.

Syria will continue to extend support for fraternal Lebanon on the basis of the Brotherhood, Coordination, and Cooperation Agreement signed by the two fraternal brothers. It will also continue to support its march on the path of national reconciliation to preserve the unity of its land, people, and entity and to enable all of its legitimate institutions to reassume their effective role.

Since the end of World War II, our Arab region has not seen security and stability because of the continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the consequences resulting from it. The Madrid conference of last year provided the opportunity to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which, according to the UN Charter, are binding to, and have to be implemented by all parties to the conflict. A year has passed now since the Madrid conference, and the entire world has learned of the Arabs' serious desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Meanwhile, Israel continues to attempt to evade the implementation of the UN resolutions and the principle of land for peace, despite the fact that the world community has asserted that the achievement of peace in the Middle East has been, and is still, based on the inevitable need for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights.

2. The Islamic Field:

Syria will continue to consolidate its relations with Islamic countries and to expand the scope of cooperation with them in all fields. Syria will also maintain its support for the Islamic Conference Organization and for its effective role in serving the causes of the Islamic peoples, so that it may reaffirm its presence on the international level and contribute to the enrichment of human civilization.

3. The International Field:

Syria will continue with its vanguard role of supporting the Nonaligned Movement, entrenching its bases, uniting its stands, and increasing its effectiveness in the international arena to enable it to develop its structure and readjust its methods of action to the realities of the new international state of affairs, so that it may remain a strong supporter of the people of the Third World and a staunch defender of their just causes.

Syria will work to establish the best possible relations with Russia, the CIS countries, and the countries in East Europe in all fields from the premise that the traditional friendship between Syria and the peoples of these countries should constitute the solid foundation for promoting cooperation with these countries in accordance with mutual interests and benefits.

Syria will continue to promote its friendship and cooperation with the PRC and the DPRK. Syria will also pursue its cooperation with Japan and South East Asian countries.

Syria will continue to develop its relations with the European countries from the premise of the security influence between the Arab and European regions, the growing mutual interests on the basis of integrated cooperation and mutual respect.

Syria will work to improve and develop its relations with the peoples of North and South America, and to enhance its relations, particularly with the Arab communities in these countries, so that they may be a bridge for friendship and cooperation between the motherland and these countries.

Syria has spared no effort in supporting UN resolutions and disarmament agreements, foremost being the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, to which it is a signatory state. Syria also signed the safeguard agreement which stemmed from this treaty on 25 February 1992. If comprehensiveness and fairness are taken into consideration with regard to the issue of arms limitations, it will contribute to the enhancement of security and stability to which the world aspires. This issue becomes more effective in the Middle East region if it is established on the basis of the liquidation of all nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons of mass destruction in accordance with yardsticks where there will be no discrimination for one country at the expense of another, and on the condition it will comprise all the countries of the region, without exception, including the local production of these weapons within the framework and under the supervision of the United Nations.

Syria abides by the UN Charter and this abidance makes it call on this organization to implement the Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict to achieve security and peace in our region. International legitimacy dictates that there should be no double dealing.

The Syrian delegation to the 47th UN General Assembly session called for enhancing UN effectiveness and role in reformulating more democratic and integrated international relations. Syria will pursue its active role in this respect.

II. Domestic policy:

Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen: The Syrian Arab society is unique in that it is a secure and stable society enjoying a high sense of nationalism. It is governed by social values and concepts that preach amity, cooperation, solidarity, understanding, and cohesion. The social and humanitarian state of affairs in Syria is qualified to carry out the best forms of work, production, organization, and individual and collective activities. There is still a need to develop legislation and laws in harmony with the economic and social development.

Therefore, the government's aim on the domestic front is to continue developing plans and programs toward spheres that are more capable of absorbing the people's potentials, of focusing more on investment policies in the production fields, of broadening the types and standards of basic social services, and of further entrenching the economic measures whose feasibility has been established in the agricultural and industrial fields, coupled with a more extensive investment of subterranean resources to attain integration among the various sectors through the formula of economic pluralism.

The government continues to work to achieve a balance between revenues and expenditures, between imports and exports, and between production and consumption; to entrench labor and production values in the economic institutions; to enhance control of individual and collective behavior; to protect the society from the negative aspects that cause social ills; to reinforce the supremacy of the law; to support social security; to develop all legislations and laws that regulate all relations that govern society; to renovate the state's working methods; to adopt the principles of administrative development; and to define the objectives to be attained by local government to secure the best atmosphere under which the citizen can safely and securely work and invest.

From this premise, we can outline some of the basic guidelines in our domestic policy which we can sum up in the following principles:

1. This homeland is for all and needs the efforts of all its sons. With the national unity, political stability, and democratic system based on political and economic plurality that it enjoys, Syria provides for its people the economic circumstances that enable any productive individual to participate in building this homeland. Our course of action will always be the enhancement of the rules of a democratic system in accordance with the decisions of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the National Progressive Front, the entrenchment of the role of the popular organizations and the trade unions, and the continuation of steps to expand the role of local government—councils and administrative units, given that they are one of the mainstays for the exercise of democracy, not to mention that the people's representatives in the governorates should participate in the process of decisionmaking and should take the necessary measures for their governorates in terms of planning and implementation. Our course of action will also seek to increase the role of women in the political, economic, social, and cultural life; enhance their participation in the labor and production fields; preserve the fabric of the family and enhance its values and bonds as the basis of Syrian Arab society.

2. The rule of law is the backbone of life in every society. The cultural criteria of any society are reflected on the absolute supremacy of the law. This is because the rule of law means the rule of the people; and nobody is above the people and the law. In his definition of this orientation, President Hafiz al-Asad said that the application and respect for the law are main factors contributing to the stability of the society. His excellency the president has also asserted that judicial authority must be given greater attention so that it can best perform its tasks.

Judicial authority must be provided with qualified and reputable manpower. This is an urgent matter, for law should be the guarantee for all.

In that, the president highlighted the importance of the rule of law and its effect on all fields of activity. In this context, the government has studied the structure of the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary system, and prepared a plan of the required cadre in light of the present and future needs of the judiciary system. Measures are being taken to provide this system with the required personnel. The Justice Ministry is studying ways of enhancing the Judicial Authority Law. A draft law on combating narcotics has been prepared to protect the society and younger generations from this dangerous phenomenon. A draft amendment to the Customs Law is also being prepared. A specialized committee has been set up to review and study all statements issued by the Prime Ministry to abrogate superseded ones and to provide the required harmony between statements, laws, and enacted legislations. The government will develop regulations concerning production and service establishments.

3. The Armed Forces will continue to be supported and advanced, for they constitute an impregnable shield to defend the homeland and the Arab nation's causes and to counter all challenges.

4. The state's mechanism of action will be modernized. This requires the adoption of means, methods, and instruments that are provided and enhanced by scientific modernization in the world to reach an advanced level of administrative, financial, productive, and job performance, and to promote positive relations between the state organs and citizens. There will be an orientation toward introducing courses, programs, and methods of utilizing information in the best manner in the making and execution of decisions. Maximum benefit will be made of the information revolution and strategies in this age. Undoubtedly, emphasizing production as a focal point of development and change is a basic objective. In this respect, the state's mechanism of action must be promoted and the level of job performance must be upgraded in a manner that makes this new mechanism capable of increasing productivity and the precision of work. Maximum benefit will be made from existing manpower, which will be promoted and whose efficiency will be enhanced. Methods of action will continue to be modernized. The new mechanism must expose dereliction and negligence, and will encourage the innovative and the productive. It must also enhance the sense of responsibility and respect for the law.

5. The economic system has been based on economic pluralism ever since the Corrective Movement. It covers the three sectors—public, private, and mixed. Developing and modernizing the administration of the national economy requires an analysis of the structures and mechanisms of administration, work, and production. This particularly applies to the establishments of the public sector on the one hand, and functionaries and activities of the private, mixed, and cooperative sectors on the other.

The administration of the national economy is a comprehensive and integral headline for all economic and social structures. The policy of government, in terms of defining and developing the mechanism of administration and work in the nation's economy, is concentrated in these sectors in accordance with the following:

A. The public sector: The public sector assumed big development responsibility in our country that resulted in the establishment of an economic and service basis. This basis contributed to the achievement of the objectives of economic and social plans, to finding large-scale opportunities for our manpower, and to establishing the infrastructure of the national economy.

In addition to the industrial facilities it has built, this sector played a role in dam building, irrigation systems, land reclamation, road paving, building bridges and railroads, establishing power stations and water authorities, constructing sewage systems and popular housing projects; in telecommunications, hospitals, mills, bakeries, silos; and in providing services in the fields of supply, domestic trade, land, maritime and air transportation, and health care. It also reinforced large-scale development in the fields of education, culture, and information.

The size of the public sector in all these fields expanded and became greater; it will also expand and become greater through the projects which are being implemented and will be implemented. These projects cover dams, irrigation systems, land reclamation, electrical power generation stations, steel manufacturing complexes, fertilizer factories, spinning mills, cement, exploiting oil and gas, and the other underground resources. It also accomplished telecommunications projects and sewage projects in major cities and built and furnished hospitals.

These projects will increase production, expand investment fields, and create tens of thousands of job opportunities. In light of the basic role of the public sector in reinforcing national economy, the government believes that it will review its regulations, laws, and mechanisms of its work. The government will also tackle its problems and remove the obstacles which impede its work.

To continue these steps, and at the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party command, and the National Progressive Front, the government—in participation with the General Federation of Trade Unions and the various competent sides—continues to study the situation of this sector to prepare a plan that covers the various fields that would modernize and develop the administrations of the public sector institutions. The results of this study will be implemented.

B. The private, joint, and cooperative sectors: The joint sector experiment, which is a formula for cooperation between the public and private sectors, was established on bases that give the private sector a great share and large part of the administration in this field. A number of joint companies have been created in the agricultural and tourist sectors. The government will always work to strengthen this partnership between the public and private sectors in all fields of production and will provide the necessary facilities to them. The government will also provide what is necessary for establishing companies and attracting local, Arab, and foreign investments.

The Investments Encouragement Law No. 10 for 1991 has been enacted and the instructions concerning its implementation have been issued. The aim behind this law has been and still is the same; namely, directing the surplus funds for development and production, utilizing available resources for the private and joint sectors, and encouraging the two sectors to participate in building the country's economic and developmental base.

The projects that are covered by regulations pertaining to this law have reached 573 investment projects with an estimated 89 billion pounds in investment, of which 69 billion are in foreign currency. These projects are distributed among the sectors of industry, transportation, and agriculture and their implementation will create 45,000 direct job opportunities. The implementation of these projects will allow the achievement of the following:

i. Ensuring integration between the agricultural and industrial sectors by manufacturing many agricultural commodities and providing the possibility of storing, classifying, and packing these commodities. This will provide a sort of regularity in their outflow to local markets and improve their competitive positions in international markets.

ii. Ensuring the availability of numerous commodities that are imported from abroad and increasing the production capacity of other commodities in the production of which Syria is enjoying relative skill. This will increase our ability to export on an economic basis.

iii. Greatly contributing to dealing with the formation of bottlenecks in the transportation of goods and passengers and increasing Syria's share in transporting its own exports and imports by land and by sea.

In the field of implementation, the majority of the agreed upon projects have been completed and foreign currency bank accounts related to them have been opened in the various branches of the Syrian Commercial Bank in addition to the two investment branches created for this purpose. A number of owners of industrial projects have completed buildings pertaining to their projects and important parts of the machines, equipment, and tools on which contracts were signed have been procured. Indeed, some of them have started production and have put their products in the local and international markets in record time. Transportation projects have put their vehicles into operation in view of the increasing demands for transportation, now that a great number of buses, microbuses, and trucks have been imported.

The political stability and security prevailing in Syria as well as the numerous facilities Syria offers enhance the private sector's self-confidence and promote trust in its activities and in the investment prospects opened for it. This further enriches the investment climate, expands its prospects, and lends further strength to its ambitions. This state of affairs also enables the active national capital, be it resident or expatriate, to seize the investment opportunities available in Syria. One of the main characteristics marking the productive Syrian individual lies in his creative and innovative potentials. These potentials, when coupled with the encouraging legislations and regulations in force, will allow him to play an extensive and big role in the future.

Similarly, the government will endeavor to aid the cooperative sector and provide it with the necessary facilities, because cooperation enhances the citizens' contributions toward resolving their problems in the areas of agriculture, supply, housing, and other areas through the cooperative organizations in which they are participating.

6. To continue to develop control and accountability in a manner that renders accountability an economic accountability of each institution, making sure that it realizes its objectives and that it also makes profits. Officials will be held accountable for the performance of their tasks. Control is meant to guide and instruct employees and to prevent them from making mistakes. Control and accountability constitute a significant tool for punishing those who do harm, who display negligence, and who fail to perform their duties. In the same vein, it is a tool that helps identify creative, productive, honest, and excellent people and reward them. This tool also helps promote establishments and correct their performance and measures to achieve their production objectives.

Chapter Two: The Economic Field

Mr. Speaker of the People's Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the People's Assembly: The true objective of our economic policy is to exploit all available natural resources; manage these resources in a modern and scientific manner; and make the optimal use of manpower, natural resources, and manufactured products within the context of scientific planning for economic and social development—planning that involves the various agricultural, industrial, and service sectors—with a view to obtaining a growth rate that is commensurate with the growing financial requirements and the population increase, and in a manner that constantly leads to increases in production rates and also in the gross national product.

It goes without saying that the international situation, including political events, economic developments, financial speculation, as well as many other conflicting factors are bound to leave an impact on our region and

our country. This is because we are an indivisible part of the region and the world as well. Any wise economic policy must draw up its objectives and courses of action in a manner that helps the authorities concerned to absorb the effects and repercussions of these currently far-reaching and accelerating developments. In this regard, the government will endeavor to spell out the objectives of the economic policy, to shoulder its responsibilities, and to enhance investment and production trends in accordance with the following:

1. Irrigation and Agriculture:

The agricultural sector is deemed the pioneering sector in Syria's economy. Hence, the government will continue to accord irrigation, agriculture, and agricultural investment top priority in the development process to achieve the highest possible growth rates in this sector and to allow this sector to integrate with the industrial sector. The government will also continue to implement the agricultural development strategy, which is based on promoting production, increasing the productivity of both land and man, and exploiting the unexploited available resources and merging them within the production process in accordance with the set economic and technical priorities.

It is useful to mention in this field that the government's policy over past years in the field of irrigation and agriculture, as well as the results scored, have been a prominent indicator and among the main bases of the objectives for completing the requirements of Syrian agricultural development.

Over past years, many dams and water networks have been completed and tens of thousands of hectares reclaimed. In 1991, nine dams were completed with a total capacity of 38.5 cubic meters, and 23 other dams are now being completed in coastal areas, Al-Yarmuk, al-'Asi, the desert, along the Euphrates, and at al-Khabur with a storage capacity of 2,553 million cubic meters for the irrigation of 148,612 hectares. Tens of thousands of hectares have been incorporated for agricultural exploitation. Irrigated areas in 1991 increased by 96,000 hectares, and in 1993 by 113,000 hectares. The amount of irrigated land in Syria rose from 650,000 hectares to 1,015,000 hectares in 1992.

The government's measures to double loans from the Agricultural Cooperative Bank, the provision of production components and equipment, the early formulation of annual production plans, and the use of pricing as an incentive to produce have all contributed to giving first priority to agriculture within the overall production scheme, as well as to providing practical bases for food security and enhancing development and stability in the Syrian countryside. The increase in agricultural production is reflected in the ever-increasing production of various crops.

In 1992, Syria produced a record 2.967 billion tonnes of grain, an increase of 626,000 tonnes over 1991. In the area of cotton production, the yield there reached 555,000 tonnes, an increase of 114,000 tonnes. The average yield per unit of land was 2,375 kg per hectare. This made Syria assume the second highest position in the world with respect to productivity per unit of land. The production of sugar beets in 1991 totalled 1.2 billion tonnes, that is double the production of 1990. Citrus fruit output reached 430,000 tonnes, and similar increases were registered among various other crops and animal products.

Yes, we suffered this year from an overproduction of fruit and vegetables after having suffered in previous years from a shortage in both these fields. The export of surplus production is an important matter which the government is working on by opening up stable and regular export channels. In addition to all this, we must not forget the positive results in the field of fruit and tree cultivation, the production of saplings, and the provision of production components at appropriate times. These results attained in the field of agriculture and irrigation will be the basis for the attainment of better results as follows:

—Continue to formulate early annual agricultural production plans to secure the timely material requirements of the annual agricultural program.

—Continue to expand the amount of cultivated land through reclamation operations, as well as the provision of saplings and seeds suitable to the reclaimed lands and all factors needed for their successful planting.

—Continue to implement huge irrigation networks and dams along all waterways, particularly along rivers, and encourage the planting of fruit and forest trees.

—Continue to transform land irrigated by rain into irrigated land by offering loans to people willing to drill water wells and develop and modernize irrigation methods, whenever possible.

The government will continue to render all necessary services to producers to increase agricultural production and animal wealth, expand animal byproduct production, and promote scientific and agricultural research, veterinary care, and artificial insemination.

The government will continue to provide various production requirements for the agricultural sector, as well as ensure good quality control.

The government will continue to follow a pricing policy based on academic study of production costs, and continue to encourage producers, in accordance with the product's basic importance.

The government will further restrict cultivation in bedouin areas. The government will increase forest areas and expand pastures and develop the animal wealth in these areas. The government will also provide facilities and basic services to population centers, and maintain and renew invested wells to meet the needs of animals in bedouin areas.

The government will continue to take measures to encourage development of agricultural products and develop processes of marketing, normal and technical storage, and canning, investment in which private sector companies can contribute, in addition to the contribution of public, mixed, and cooperative sector institutions.

The government will also develop local industry for the requirements of agricultural production, especially fertilizers, pesticides, and veterinary medicines and vaccines so that its production will match international standards. It will also create new prospects to manufacture several agricultural products to contribute toward meeting domestic needs while exporting the surplus.

Over past years, agriculture has proven that it yields good results and provides food security for this country when it receives proper attention.

Our agricultural policy has realized very important achievements, and its positive results have reflected on the national economy, after several challenges were overcome. Fast-moving developments started to improve conditions in the Syrian countryside, and contributed toward social stability in the countryside. The positive effects of the shift to agriculture have started to move in the right direction of investment which leads to more feasible methods of agricultural investment. We can say that agriculture in Syria has taken an economic and scientific path that enhances our confidence in ourselves, our land, our peasants, our production, and our countryside, as well as Syria's approach, which requires doubling efforts and capabilities in the next stage.

2. Industry:

The government's policy in this field stems from the need to exploit the available energies and benefit more from them, and concentrate on manufacturing raw materials of a domestic origin which are economically justified. The government will also try to limit labor turnover and give incentives to laborers to increase production and enhance the quality of industrial products to match international standards and meet the needs of the local market, on the one hand, and the needs of exports to foreign markets on the other. The government's plan in the industrial field includes the following:

A. Extraction Industry: The government will continue drilling and prospecting operations to discover oil, gas, and other subterranean wealth so as to increase the amount of geological reserves and the reserves that could be invested, including various minerals and semi-minerals, especially oil, gas, phosphates. The government will continue to supply refineries with light and heavy oil. The results achieved by the Syrian Oil Company and other contractor companies indicate that there are good hopes that bode a promising future.

B. Processing Industry: The government's concentration will continue to be on remedying the situation of the industrial public sector. As I mentioned a short while ago, developing and modernizing the administration of this sector are central to remedying the various problems related to this sector.

Over past years, the government has studied the situation of every industrial institution and supplied it with the necessary replacement parts. The government has demanded that these institutions abide by connected production and export plans to provide the necessary requirements from the return of exports. There is no doubt that bringing about a shift in the administration of the industrial public sector is a pressing demand today, more than ever before, so that these industries would achieve a surplus, thus contributing toward increasing local financial resources.

We must remove several difficulties and obstacles and provide manufactured products with competitive standards. Developing the industrial public sector in terms of administration, organization, production, and exports is the primary mission of the next stage.

In addition to dealing with the public industrial sector, the government is continuing to promote the industrial growth rate by establishing new industries depending on local raw material; focusing on the principles of integration between the processing industry sector and other industries, especially the agricultural sector; creating an organic link between existing industries and production activities by achieving the goal of integration among them; focusing, at the same time, on expanding and diversifying the base of food industries, especially those depending on local agricultural raw materials; and encouraging scientific research and individual initiatives.

The government is also working to encourage and protect handicrafts and traditional industries, and to create industrial zones in governorates to absorb industrial expansion resulting from private investment activity, including private sector projects licensed under Law No. 103 and those covered by the provisions of Law No. 10 encouraging investment, the details of which we have just mentioned. The government will also work to create a body monitoring exports, imports, and the specification of exported products.

3. Foreign Trade:

The government will continue its policy to make foreign trade a tool for developing and promoting production, improving its quality, and securing the raw material necessary for its continuation. It will also secure the requirements of establishing new development projects, introducing new techniques, and stressing the role of the exporting process as a basic issue for certain industries that should be extensively supported, so as to promote our industries' competitiveness and enable us to finance import requirements to achieve the desired balance in our foreign economic relations.

Promoting Foreign Trade Rules:

For this purpose, the government will work to promote foreign trade rules, taking into account current economic developments in our country and the role of various economic sectors in the development process with the aim of simplifying import and export measures.

The government is also studying ways of creating a bank to promote imports by extending banking facilities to exporters and helping them focus their efforts on the production and exporting process; namely, on quantity, quality, specifications, and abiding by dates. The government will continue its steps toward tightening control on imports and exports by creating the required organs and providing bakeries with the necessary equipment to preserve the health of citizens, on the one hand, and secure confidence in our exports and open more markets for them on the other.

In line with its strong belief in Arab unity, the government will work to reinforce the role of inter-Arab trade by removing obstacles, implementing bilateral and collective agreements, and directing export activities toward it by pursuing adopted integration methods.

The government will also continue to strengthen trade ties with advanced industrial countries, as well as developing countries, taking into consideration existing ties throughout the international economy.

Linking Imports With Exports:

The government will continue to link imports with exports. It will also promote the role of foreign trade institutions in carrying out the state's plan in hopes of benefiting from these institutions' large-scale experience, all to serve the exporting process and concentrate on activating food and handicraft exports while working to secure stable foreign markets and the requirements of their production from the return on exports. The government will also continue to work to remove obstacles hampering exports.

The government will continue its work to activate free zones and assign them the role of attracting Arab and foreign capital to be invested in these zones.

4. Financial and Monetary Policy:

The government will work toward realizing a financial balance as a basic step to realizing economic balance, in terms of local revenues and expenditures, by promoting local budget revenues and rationalizing public expenditures, both current and that spent on investment. The government will also work to enact necessary laws, stressing the principle of self-reliance, and tying financial and monetary policy to a plan of ensuring the requirements of financing development projects, bringing investment expenditures into harmony with the aims of production and services, effecting a balance whenever possible between the outflow of funds and the outflow of commodities, and ending the backlog of accounting in the public sector, now that this backlog has been cleared in the state's general budget.

The government will work for using monetary policy as a tool for streamlining sound economic development and will develop the banking apparatus, both quantitatively and qualitatively, with the aim of creating new banks to take care of the developed economic activities, such as the Investment Bank and the Export Promotion Bank. The government will work for increasing the branches of existing specialized banks, modernizing their work, providing them with modern technical equipment, establishing a higher institute for banking, encouraging channels for savings in banks, and simplifying the deposits and withdraws.

The government will strengthen the role of the Cooperative Agricultural Bank and raise the credit ceiling, providing wider services for the agricultural financing processes, in both crop planting and animal wealth, given that credits for producers have steadily increased over the past three years. These credits reached only 1,978 million pounds in 1987, 4,362 million in 1988, 6,840 million in 1989, 8,607 million in 1990, and 11,682 million pounds in 1991.

Thus, the rates of government credit through the Cooperative Agricultural Bank increased from 6 percent of total government credits for various production and services activities in 1986 to 11.2 percent in 1990 and 22.2 percent in 1991. It can be said that the development in the bank's financing covered all fields.

Investment in the bank increased from 2.831 billion pounds in 1986 to 20.410 billion in 1991. It is expected to rise to about 26 billion in 1992 to meet the needs of the brother farmers.

Annual credits rose from 1.372 billion pounds in 1986 to 11.682 billion in 1991, and are expected to rise to 14.2 billion in 1992 to meet the increasing needs of the agricultural sector with the aim of increasing production, the signs of which we clearly see now.

Regarding annual credits, a total of 3.627 billion pounds have been earmarked for agricultural development loans, that is, long- and medium-term loans in 1991. This amount is expected to reach 5 billion in 1992. This amount did not exceed 430 million in 1986.

The greater part of the government's funds have been allocated for transforming nonirrigated land into irrigated land, updating irrigation methods, and using modern methods of spray and drip irrigation. The areas that have been transformed from nonirrigated to irrigated land totaled 843 square km in the first half of 1992. This area is expected to reach 1,250 square km by the end of this year. The areas that were transformed in 1991 amounted to 975 square km, as opposed to 465 square km in 1990, 223 in 1989, and 92 square km in 1988. The areas in which spray and drip irrigation were employed in the first half of 1992 totaled 174 square km, as opposed to 75 square km in 1991.

The loan investment rate in those areas where loans have been granted has amounted to 99.12 percent in 1991, while it amounted to 97.33 percent in 1990. This indicates that the government's subsidized loans are being invested in the fields for which they have been granted. The collection rate at the Cooperative Agricultural Bank has ranged between 96.1 percent and 98.86 percent, depending on the abundance of agricultural crops.

The government will continue to develop the banking system by holding training courses for all specialized banks to promote the performance of their workers. The government will enhance the activities of the Syrian State Enterprise for Insurance and will open specialized branches as the need arises. It will also launch a stock market to monitor, organize, and mobilize national savings and direct them toward sound uses. An investment bank specialized in current investment activities will be established in light of pertinent laws, especially Law No. 10 of 1991 which facilitates investment activities.

5. Internal Trade:

The government will continue to support internal trade so that it would play its role in facilitating the process of production, product marketing, contributing toward establishing a balance between supply and demand, and improving the system and distribution of internal trade firms and establishments and the performance of their duties. The government will continue to support the consumer's cooperative societies, and will bolster their contribution to providing and stockpiling commodities to face any circumstances that may arise. The state's ability to control supply commodities and their prices and specifications will be bolstered. Vehicles and laboratory and technical equipment will be provided for this purpose.

The government will work to expand mill capacity and promote the performance of bakeries. There will be an emphasis on building silos and mini-silos, cereal storehouses, and storage and refrigeration units. The stockpiling capacity of food products, such as cereal, vegetables, fruit, dairy products, and meat will be expanded. The role of consumer's cooperative societies and their support for public sector retail trade will be enhanced. The services offered by the internal trade establishments to consumers will be improved.

The government's permanent objective will be to improve the positive role of the state and internal trade establishments to guarantee a balance, stability, and availability of products to the domestic market.

Chapter Three: Collective and Individual Services

Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen: The government has paid great attention to services so as to promote the infrastructure of the national economy and provide services and public utilities to citizens. Al-Asad's Syria can pride itself in the extensive and various services that have been made available to our people over the past years. These services are appreciated and admired by whoever visits Syria and witnesses the great edifice of the national economies infrastructure.

Despite the major achievements in this field, Syria needs more such achievements to absorb its population growth and to cope with the various and growing needs of life. Therefore, while the government will continue to offer and expand basic services to citizens, it will work to promote their quality and to better exploit their capacities.

Accordingly, the government will develop resources and services in the following fields:

1. Electricity and Water:

A. In the field of electricity generation, the government will do its best to provide the electricity needed to meet demand, whether for industrial purposes or civilian use, and to take advantage of all available energy resources in Syria.

The government will continue to establish new power generation plants and will use gas to a great extent in operating these plants.

Moreover, the government will increase the efficiency of the electricity network system, improve the efficiency of power generating plants, and reduce leakage from electricity transmission and distribution grids.

The demand for electricity continues to increase at rates exceeding available capacities for use as a result of industrial, agricultural, and urban expansion. The number of consumers increased from 442,000 in 1970 to 2,341,000 in 1992. Despite the increase in electricity output during this period, from 770 million kilowatt/hours to 11,900 million kilowatt/hours, the government still has to tackle the task of accomplishing new electrical projects. Work is being expedited to complete the Tishrin Thermal Station so that the first unit, producing up to 200 megawatts, can be put into operation before the end of this year.

The government will also expedite work on building the Jan'ar Station to generate an additional 600 megawatts. Work is also under way on the Tishrin Dam Power Station on the Euphrates. Moreover, a number of plants are being refitted to operate on gas instead of fuel oil which will reduce expenses, prevent pollution, and increase oil exports and byproducts.

The government is also following up on the project to connect Syria's electricity grid with those of other Arab and neighboring countries, to improve the balance and stability of the electricity supply system and to achieve mutual economic benefits with these countries.

B. Drinking Water:

In this field, the government will follow up:

—The execution of water projects to provide pure potable water, as well as the implementation of ongoing projects in the towns and rural areas and the provision of materials needed for these projects.

—Operations to replace and renew the water pipe networks to reduce water leakage and waste.

—The protection of water springs, artesian wells, and water pipe networks from damage and pollution.

Under directives from the president, drinking water projects in the governorates have received priority financing to secure the necessary requirements to meet citizens' needs for drinking water.

2. Communications and Transport:

The communications and transport sector is the vital artery linking all centers of economic activity in Syria with Arab and foreign countries to ensure the flow of goods and the mobility of people. Proceeding from the importance of this sector and its status in the national economy, the government's policy in this field is based on the following points:

—Taking full advantage of available energies, developing their function, and providing that which is necessary for their operation.

—Continuing to improve the railroad network, its performance, and its contribution to the overall transportation system.

—Continuing to expand international road networks to link all Syrian governorates with this network, providing maintenance to these roads, and keeping them serviceable; as well as providing transportation companies with new buses to expand their services. Eight hundred buses have been bought and are now being distributed to those companies.

—Continue developing means of air transportation, provide modern aircraft, and improve the operational plans of the air transportation sector to suit development in air transit and economic expansion.

—Providing the commercial [maritime] fleet with new ships to improve the efficiency of sea transportation.

The establishment of investment projects in the transportation field inside the cities and among the governorates has contributed to solving the transportation crisis. With the importation of buses, trucks, and refrigerated trucks, the crisis began to fade gradually. This kind of crisis in our life is expected to be eliminated in the near future and transportation services will be provided at an expanded scale for citizens, travelers, and various goods.

Work on regional and international direct-dial telephone service is being expedited to improve direct-dial telephoning among governorates and between Syria and the outside world. Moreover, the government is following up on the implementation of a project aimed at providing 700,000 telephone numbers beginning in 1993.

Work is under way to improve communications with the outside world by speeding up work at the land satellite station, Intelsat, with the Atlantic, and the Syria-Cyprus underwater cable project, Ugarit, and adding them to the list of investment projects.

3. Housing:

The government continues to show interest in housing projects to develop and encourage cooperative housing societies and to remove obstacles standing in their way. The government will concentrate on building low-cost and healthy houses in the cities and rural areas. It will support cooperation in housing and end haphazard methods of housing, provide basic services and commercial facilities in new residential areas in parallel with implementing housing projects. The government will follow up on the completion of organizational and topographic maps of cities, towns, and large villages to organize services and public utilities.

As I have mentioned earlier, the government will continue to implement sewage treatment projects. The big sewage treatment project in Damascus is being implemented with emphasis on treatment by sewage stations, which will rechannel clean water for use in agriculture. The sewage treatment projects in Aleppo, Hims, and Hamah are being implemented according to the most modern drainage, purification, and treatment techniques.

4. Construction:

Syria has undergone a distinct experiment in establishing a number of public construction companies within the private and public sectors which played a big and important role in implementing water, agricultural, and industrial projects, and which are implementing major projects with a high level of efficiency, allowing the creation of engineering and technical cadres and high-level skills that can implement the biggest and most-advanced technological projects.

The number of those working at public construction corporations and companies has reached more than 120,000 engineers, technicians, and workers who currently represent more than 2,700 projects distributed throughout the governorates.

The overall value of contracts for these projects amounts to approximately 76 billion Syrian pounds. The value of the implemented parts of these contracts amounts to about 15 billion Syrian pounds. The implemented contracts for 1992 are expected to reach more than 15 billion Syrian pounds, broken down as follows:

—Six billion Syrian pounds for dam projects, irrigation networks, and land reclamation projects.

—Seven billion Syrian pounds for road projects, potable water systems, and sewage treatment stations.

—Two billion Syrian pounds for hospitals, buildings, and other projects.

5. Health and social care:

A. Health care: The government will work to realize the following:

—Focusing on primary health care, preventive medicine, and first aid. The government will provide integrated departments for this purpose in every hospital.

—Providing medical security and promoting medical monitoring from all its aspects, and concentrating on the local manufacture of basic medicines, whether by public sector corporations or licensed private and joint sector factories. The policy of manufacturing medicine has achieved great progress in meeting public needs, covering 65 per cent of all basic medicines.

—Working to achieve a balance among the various specialized medical centers to increase the efficiency of medical establishments and to develop their services in rural areas, cities, and hospitals.

In implementation of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's directives, jobs have been created for 6,577 physicians, dentists, and pharmacists in 1991-1992, and they are being appointed to various hospitals and health centers. Six hospitals are being provided with the necessary mechanical, electrical, and medical equipment so that they may become fully operational.

B. Social Care:

—The government will continue to give all types of social care institutions the attention they deserve, and will continue to develop them and provide them with the necessary requirements so that they may assume the role they should carry out in society.

—The government will continue to support and encourage rural development through multipurpose rural development centers to provide guidance and support in training and production.

—The government will also work to enhance the role of women, provide them with opportunities, and have them participate in the development operations, not to mention that the government will continue to provide them with the necessary circumstances that help them carry out their family duties.

6. Tourism:

The government has paid great attention to tourism, benefiting from Syria's unique geographic location, its having many antiquities and castles, and in view of its diverse nature which makes it a center of tourist attractions. The government will work to achieve the following objectives:

—To encourage Arab and foreign investment, and to encourage expatriates to contribute to the establishment of tourist projects.

—To increase the tourist sector's financial contribution to the development plan, particularly in terms of hard currency.

—To hold festivals to promote and encourage tourism.

—To develop the tourism promotion plan to portray Syria's touristic image as it should be, and to support the Syrian presence in active and potential tourist markets.

—To encourage domestic tourism and activate and provide the necessary requirements for low-cost tourism.

—To facilitate movement at entry and exist points, and remedy the negative phenomena.

7. Environment:

The preservation of a safe environment—soil, water, and air—has become the major slogan of the nineties. Environmental pollution, as a result of industrial and technological development in the world, has become a danger threatening this planet. The world at large has been calling for international conferences to study this acute problem in our contemporary world and adopt the resolutions and recommendations that would contribute to limiting and combating pollution. Syria has been one of first countries to establish a ministry for environment affairs, which has its own departments and cadres, and many experts have been invited to study pollution in many parts of Syria. A committee for the protection of the environment on land, at sea, and in the air was formed. The government seeks to coordinate its various plans on a safe environment within a unified plan to facilitate the preservation of all the environmental components free of any pollution.

Chapter Four: Education, Culture, and Information

1. Education:

The government will work to develop educational process by modernizing, guiding, and directing it to serve Syria's economic and social development, inspired in this by his excellency the president's words: "The development and upgrading of education will fail if it is not accompanied by a systematic effort to exploit the results of education at the appropriate time, and to have them serve politics, economy, defense, and the other walks of life."

The number of kindergartens and elementary and intermediary schools has increased, not to mention increases in the number of teachers and both male and female students. Following the implementation of the technical and vocational education plan, the number of secondary schools decreased against an expansion in the number of

technical and vocational schools. Training schools for intermediary teachers were also developed.

Pursuant to the president's instructions to apply the technical and vocational education plan, to expand it, and to implement its requirements beginning with the 1988-1989 scholastic year; in accordance with the government's policy statement before the People's Assembly on 28 December 1987 to implement the technical and vocational education plan, the government put into action the plan that runs until 1995. The government transferred 30 percent of the graduates of the intermediate classes to general secondary education and 70 percent of the graduates of the intermediate classes to the technical and vocational education. In the scholastic year 1991-1992, the number of the technical and vocational schools reached 545, while in 1988 there were 185 schools.

The government studied the needs for expanding vocational education; took the necessary measures to provide the requirements in terms of buildings, equipment, training of personnel; and set the curricula and prepared the books, lists of equipment, and the training necessary for creating 62 schools affiliated with the Education Ministry at the stage of vocational—industrial, commercial, and women's—education and generalized them in the directorates of education. The objective is to create skills in each governorate in accordance with the students' desire and to meet the requirements of the economic and social developments to spread vocational education in all areas.

The standing committee for implementing the technical and vocational plan at the Prime Ministry follows up on all steps aimed at achieving the objectives of this plan and distributing the graduates of the intermediate stage in the technical and vocational education stage and in the schools and institutes affiliated with the Ministry of Education and other ministries.

2. Higher Education and Scientific Research:

The recent years witnessed large-scale expansion in the organization of admission, developing curricula, and preparing plans and regulations for all faculties in Syrian universities, which witnessed expansion in establishing faculties and providing them with the necessary laboratories and equipment. Many specialized intermediate institutions were established in various branches of technical, agricultural, and industrial education. Important steps were made to train specialized technical cadres.

Pursuant to President Hafiz al-Asad's instructions and to achieve more interest in scientific research, the government will continue to support higher education to achieve the following goals:

—To improve scientific research and set the necessary framework and allocate the necessary funds for it. Also, to deepen the link between the plans for higher education and the needs for economic and social development in Syria and achieve integration and balance between pure and applied research.

—To continue to expand the higher education diploma program to meet the development plans and entrench scientific research; and to expand the domestic scholarship program for students of higher education to preserve the scientific and national wealth and prevent a national brain drain. External scholarships will be limited to rare specialities only.

—To improve university education in terms of setting study programs, specifying research fields and curricula, providing books and university reference material, organizing the teaching and assessment methods, and providing the appropriate techniques, computers, scientific material, laboratories, and equipment that suit the plans of the desired research and the modern scientific trends in terms of content, methods, and objectives.

—To provide the necessary numbers of specialists to meet the needs of the productive and service institutions needed for development; and to introduce new specialists in higher education and junior colleges, especially in the basic and applied sciences, and provide their requirements.

—To continue to support the use of Arabic Language in the Arab world, particularly in higher education and universities, in terms of teaching, writing, and research and to encourage translation.

—To entrench the cultural ties with Arab and friendly states and with the specialized Arab research centers and organizations in a manner that would help exchange the scientific experience of researchers and workers in universities and colleges—the teachers, administrators, and students.

3. Culture:

The government will continue to apply the slogan "Culture for All and in the Service of All." This will be done through the publication of books and translations and by paying extreme attention to the Arab heritage. The government will also promote the movie industry and expand and support theatrical activities. Efforts will continue to build museums and theaters, and rehabilitate archaeological sites. Efforts will be increased to combat illiteracy and increase the number of cultural centers at home and abroad. The completion of a national theater, a movie city, and an arts museum will be carried out.

The government will also focus on further boosting a cultural awakening in all fields. Thus, the cultural and arts awakening will move side by side with Syria's economic, social, and constructional development. There will be an effective orientation toward entrenching the pan-Arab thought and achieving a cultural Arab unity.

4. Information:

In view of the important role played by the mass media, the government will make extra efforts to provide material and technical requirements, as well as the necessary manpower for the mass media in the fields of engineering, programs, production, and expanding the scope of television transmission on Channels One and Two so as to cover all Syrian governorates and all neighboring countries. Efforts will also be exerted to expand the scope of the radio transmission and to increase transmission hours in several languages. High frequencies will be used to make Syria's voice and policies heard in the outside world.

There will be emphasis on keeping the listener and viewer in touch with various domestic, Arab, and international events and activities, be it through live coverage, the television centers that have been established, or the use of satellite networks. There will be further expansion in local radio and television production to enable our programs to reach other Arab countries. This will create good opportunities for Syrian artists and arts potential.

The Syrian artists have proved their ability and made their talents visible in all arts. This requires that they be given maximum attention.

The government will pay further attention to development programs, stemming from the fact that the developmeat media have a key role in enlightening citizens and urging them to positively participate in the process of economic and social construction. In this context, efforts will be exerted to guarantee cooperation between the Information Ministry and all concerned domestic, Arab, and international organizations within the framework of the state development plans.

Bridges of cultural and media contacts with sisterly Arab states and friendly foreign states are being reinforced through agreements of media cooperation, which will guarantee for our media further interaction, development, and publicity.

In addition, existing press establishments will be supported. They will be given the necessary requirements to promote their performance of their various activities in terms of editing, reportage, and printing, in addition to expanding their circulation at home and abroad so that they can play their role as required within the framework of Syria's media policy.

5. Spiritual Values:

Within the framework of the government's care for building the individual's spiritual entity, it is important to strengthen the sublime spiritual values in society in a manner compatible with the objectives that call for justice, love, tolerance, cooperation and interaction. In this regard, the government will support the activities of the Ministry of Awqaf, develop religious teaching, and support the institutions of religious teaching to achieve its noble objectives.

Mr. Speaker, respected members of the People's Assembly. I have spoken of the government's policies, which cover its future plans and aims, taking note sometimes of certain reports, measures, works, figures, and results that have been realized in this or that sector during last year without going into unnecessary detail. This statement is aimed at presenting the forthcoming plan of action, as well as new policies and measures. However, at times I found it useful to connect the ideas and aims of certain sectors with the work on which they are based for further clarity.

With full trust in our democratic system, national and pan-Arab approach, and our developmental policy; with the will that is derived from the people's faith in their homeland, leader, and progress; and with a scientific look at the wide range covered by these new aims and programs, the government presents its statement to your esteemed assembly. This statement includes the government's plan of action in all external and domestic fields.

With the close cooperation between your assembly and the government, cooperation which is a bright picture of our democratic system, the methods and approaches in which we work together will be strengthened to realize our aims and right our wrongs and promote the political, economic, and cultural march of Syria, which, thanks to its position, role, strength, effectiveness, firm stands, and pioneering leadership, has become a source and honest base of pan- Arab credibility. Syria's respectable international position is based on a large-scale trust in it, the clear world appreciation of its important role, the aspirations of its people, and the greatness of its leader.

The international community looks at Syria as a state with unique vitality in exploiting and developing its resources, in protecting its national interests by forming balanced external ties based on cooperation and respect for international agreements, in strengthening the concepts of international legitimacy, and in its sincere and serious efforts to realize just and comprehensive peace in this region, peace based on right and justice, peace that does not concede any Arab rights.

In this statement, we opted to devote more details and analysis to the economic question with the aim of explaining big aims and dimensions in the economic, administrative, financial, and legislative fields that the government seeks to realize. This proves to you and to our steadfast people the advanced economic and developmental concepts, which define for the three sectors—the public, the private, and the joint sectors—a wide range of tasks in the fields of production, administration, and finance which should be carried out by these sectors. The various sectors must adapt to the demands imposed by these aims because investment of our resources and wealth and the use of our material and human resources in a programmed manner requires the exploitation of time as a primary factor affecting the feasibility, costs, and results of the projects. The difference in time between the fixed date of completing the project and the date on which it is completed is a decisive factor that

affects the plans and their results and which has its social and economic price. The time factor also has an effect on the links among the projects and the accumulation of snags and obstacles.

The implementation of each project is contingent on the sound timeframe for the implementation of the development plans, which should have a balanced timeframe for each part, from the economic, social, and chronological viewpoints. This will effect links in the works of the various establishments and lead to interaction among the results of the various activities. The economic, cultural, and scientific achievements in this fast-developing age must be viewed in depth and with mathematical precision. The organized economic performance and the continuous growth, coupled with advances in technology, are decisive factors, defining the entire destiny of a society and the entire future of development.

President Hafiz al-Asad has underscored this important point when he said: Wasting time is a dangerous bane that should be combated.

Waste of anything in general is in itself a loss. However, the most serious aspect is wasting time. Mankind develops and advances when it makes use of time. Nations also develop when they take advantage of time. We are in need of developing a sense of time, and this we can do through promoting awareness and enhancing willpower.

Mr. Speaker, members of the People's Assembly: Syria has no other choice than this national option which depends on several means. Our Syrian Arab people and national economy have no choice, if they want to achieve development and real progress and food security, other than pressing ahead with a new resolve and a sound vision that go beyond all that we have inherited and acquired, including concepts, norms, and financial, administrative, and employment techniques which have been outdated. This would make us acquire a more accurate approach and more modern tools and make us go faster.

We should concentrate on clearer and long-term objectives. There is no longer any room for dependence, dereliction, red tape, inaction, and backwardness. Time will discard any society which does not keep up with the latest achievements and discoveries and developed economies.

Amid this raging global political, economic, and technological conflict, we can possess anything if we strengthen our willpower. Our willpower becomes stronger if we exploit our resources, deepen our current approach, and overcome obstacles standing in the way of our work and production.

The legislative and executive authorities have before them a stage full of great activities. This stage requires the serious practice of collective responsibility and unity of thought and action. The government will pursue this approach with great confidence and optimism. The government and the People's Assembly will always work together to deepen cooperation and coordination between the legislative and executive authorities. The government will also give full attention to the recommendations of the People's Assembly and its committees and will answer all questions and implement all recommendations in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

Let us work, make efforts, launch initiatives, and produce in an outstanding manner. Let us surpass our own abilities and excel so as to make Syria's modern history. Syria is led by a leader whose high resolve, sound vision, strong determination, unbending willpower, and noble objectives should make our national responsibility greater and more comprehensive than ever. We beseech God Almighty to grant us success so that all of us—the people, the People's Assembly, the government—will live up to our great responsibilities and ambitions.

Al-Shar' Returns From Japan Visit, Moscow Talks

JN2911145592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus last night from Moscow, where he stopped over at the end of an official visit to Japan.

While in Japan, al-Shar' held official talks with Michio Watanabe, Japanese deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister. He also met with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa; Diet Speaker Sakurauchi and the head of the Syrian-Japanese Friendship Society, who is also head of the Japanese-Arab Friendship Society.

During the visit, Emperor Akihito received the foreign minister. At the end of his visit to Japan, al-Shar' held a news conference, in which he spoke about the results of his trip. He termed the visit fruitful, constructive, and encouraging.

During his stopover in Moscow, al-Shar' met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at the latter's request. He held talks with Kozyrev on the Middle East situation, future prospects for the Washington peace talks, and friendly bilateral ties.

Iran

President Visits Yazd, Views Foreign Exchange

NC2911073492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Yazd Province's Administrative Council discussed the province's problems last night at a session attended by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and some ministers.

At the start of the session, Yazd Governor General Hamidia reported on the current situation in the province. The president then described Yazd as a successful, organized, and cohesive province and attributed the people's positive and cheerful spirit to the good efforts of provincial officials.

Commenting on the government's foreign exchange policy, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Starting next [Iranian] year [beginning 21 March 1993], we are thinking of cutting a large part of the foreign exchange budgets. But this does not mean that the assistance from foreign exchange currency that is being extended to various sectors will be stopped.

He added: If foreign exchange previously was allocated directly for sectors such as roads, agriculture, water, and electricity, from now on rials will be allocated. This does not mean these sectors will face any shortages in their plans and capabilities. We will, however, avoid preparing our budget in U.S. dollars and from placing dollars in the hands of officials. We intend to stop this process.

Pointing out that from the very outset the compilation of the budget on the basis of foreign exchange was not correct and that we have incurred losses in this process, the president added: This process has led to the wasting of a great amount of foreign exchange over the past 10 to 12 years, because when organizations have foreign exchange in their hands, they try to spend it by the end of the year, thus making unnecessary purchases of foreign goods. Sometimes even the paint used for cars and buildings and many other unnecessary items may be purchased from abroad.

Explaining the government's foreign exchange policy, he said: Some of this foreign exchange definitely will remain in the country, and domestic products will be purchased. This, in itself, is a type of economizing, because now we are facing foreign exchange limitations and any extent to which we can economize will be good. Culturally and ideologically, it also is truly contemptuous for us to calculate everything in the budget and in state accounts on the basis of foreign exchange.

The president said: It does not make any difference if we allocate rials to organizations to implement their programs, because these organizations can purchase the foreign exchange they need from the Central Bank. Thus, we think that in this way, the rate of foreign exchange also will drop a little. We also have given thought to possible pressures on the rial currency so that no problems will arise. Of course, we will take foreign exchange into consideration for some items because we do not want to change the law, but the principle is to use foreign exchange in other ways.

In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the provinces to participate in formulating the second Five-Year Plan.

Our colleagues in the Yazd Central Unit report that at the beginning of the session, Yazd Governor General Hamidia reported on the situation in the province. Expressing thanks to Hashemi- Rafsanjani on behalf of the Yazd people for his assistance in the Yazd water purification plan, he said the province's records in the fields of education and employment are exemplary. Stating that 98 percent of the province's development budget has been absorbed, he informed the president of the province's needs.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani last night also inaugurated the copper telephone wire production unit at Yazd's Martyr Qandi Telecommunication Cables Company. With the operation of this production unit, 3 billion meters of copper wire will be produced annually to help expand the country's telecommunications network.

At the ceremony, the managing director of Yazd's Martyr Qandi Telecommunication Cables Company said in a report that before the construction of the plant, the cables needed by the country's telecommunications network were imported. He added that with the implementation of this plan, an annual amount of more than $150 million in foreign exchange will be saved.

Opposition Says President Visiting Nuclear Center

LD2811213692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2104 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] London November 28 ITAR-TASS—The main Iranian opposition group said on Saturday that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was visiting one of Iran's secret nuclear research centres in the city of Yazd.

The REUTER news agency reported from Nicosia the Iraq-based Mojahedin-e Khalq said in a statement from its Paris office that Rafsanjani, accompanied by the deputy head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, was evaluating "the progress of the work on a major (Revolutionary) Guards Corps nuclear research centre."

"The Guard Corps operates one of the regime's largest secret nuclear research centres which has been built underground near the city of Yazd," the statement said.

The statement also said rich uranium mines in the Saghand Desert region northeast of Yazd meant the research centre "could serve as an independent nuclear centre in the future."

Iran's official news agency IRNA said Rafsanjani was in Yazd, 450 km south of Tehran, to "meet the local people and authorities and to review problems and needs of the province", including water shortages.

The Iranian opposition has long accused Tehran's rulers of pursuing a nuclear weapons capability to bolster thier brand of Islamic fundamentalism.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Muhammad Besharati on Friday described media reports that Iran was planning to acquire nuclear weapons as "a lie and a plot".

Besharati Denies Nation Seeking Nuclear Weapons

LD2711124492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, senior Iranian deputy foreign minister, was the presermon speaker of the Tehran Friday prayers today. He described the rumors spread by the enemies of the Islamic revolution implying that Iran is on the verge of obtaining nuclear weapons as a lie and a plot, saying: We have no need for nuclear weapons. Iran is a signatory of the nonproliferation treaty and honors this agreement.

He strongly rejected the enemies' evil propaganda implying that Iran, through the purchase of modern military equipment, is bent on expansion and said: The occupation of Kuwait showed that we must rely on our own military strength. At the same time, our policy is respect for international norms and noninterference in other countries' affairs. Besharati added: While our neighboring countries are signing military pacts with big powers one by one and while they are strengthening their military weapons, why can we not replace the weapons we lost during the eight-year-long imposed war?

Speaking of the military presence of alien powers in the region, he said: This presence is a threat to the territorial integrity of states. Our weapons, quantitatively and qualitatively, cannot be compared to the weapons present in the region.

The senior deputy foreign minister of our country reiterated: Today, we need reconstruction in all fields. We must rapidly undertake this task with all our might. Continuing his speech, Besharati pointed to Serbian crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina and said: The West has closed its eyes to this problem. Even the false human rights is silent. [sentence as heard]

Yazdi Speaks at Friday Prayers 27 Nov

NC2711162692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1123 GMT 27 Nov 92

["Full recording" of Friday sermon by Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in Tehran on 27 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother and sister Muslims: These days we hear about incidents that cause pain and anxiety. Day and night, we hear about the Serbs' massacres and practices that violate even the laws of war. Concerning the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, we clearly see the silence and reluctance of international organizations. Indeed, there are signs that these organizations approve of the annihilation of Muslims. What should draw our attention first is their various kinds of pressure against Islam and Muslims, merely because of the modern growth of Islam and its new vitality throughout the world.

Strong adherence to Islam by the new republics of Central Asia, the activity of young Muslims in the various countries, and the circumstances of today's world help the advance of Islam. In such circumstances, we must be very vigilant toward subservience or affiliation. The biggest threat to Islam and Muslims is subservience to and affiliation with foreigners.

One should not imagine that the change in the U.S. Government can have a significant effect. Reliance on foreign governments is the main cause for instability and weakness. Foreign protection or pressures have no important effects, and Muslims must rely on themselves and on God. This is how they get closer to the spirit of Islam. We benefit from God's eternal power through Islamic unity. Precisely, the arrogant governments themselves are plagued with many problems. They try to solve them by utilizing the wealth of the Islamic world and the human capabilities of Muslims.

Irrespective of its local issues, Europe has different views from the United States. Different opinions regarding the supremacy of the United States have their results. Muslims throughout the world have to know the circumstances of the age and control themselves. This can be more successful through Islamic unity and close Islamic views toward the various issues, especially world issues. The Koran says: And hold fast all together, by the rope God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves.

We hope Muslims will unite, Islam will grow, and the rule of God and Islam will dominate the earth. I pray God for forgiveness for you and for myself. Peace be upon you. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: To thee have we granted the fount of abundance. Therefore to thy lord turn in prayer and sacrifice. For he who hateth thee will be cut off from future hope. [Koranic verses]

Second Sermon

LD2711183492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary branch, at Tehran University on 27 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The next point refers to Basij week. These days you have heard statements that high-ranking officials of the country have made on the greatness of Basij forces. You have also been participating in ceremonies held for that purpose. You can see the greatness of that institution. [passage omitted]

We can deduce from statements made about Basij that it is here to maintain defensive preparedness to preserve the crown of the revolution. It is a force that brings about a preparedness among all the people beyond administrative forms and definitive military regulations. Therefore, when there is a danger, a massive popular force, in which such qualifications as age and education are not considered, mounts full preparedness.

Obviously such preparedness needs a minimum of training; that is, those who have the honor of being part of Basij must have a minimum of training. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps will provide that training, so we can assume in that way that a 20 million-strong army is created—a popular force to defend the crown of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Here the principles of command and obedience to command will be among its primary principles. That is, Basij forces must function under command, under the regime and regulations that commanders at various levels introduce.

That is contrary, therefore, to the assumption by some people that Basij is a kind of free-for-all force. We all remember how, during the early part of the holy defense and dastardly Iraqi attack on Iran, our commanders and managers faced problems because of the massive rush of people with love of Islam who wanted to stop the enemy. Since then, the commanders decided to introduce order and organization into all these popular forces. [passage omitted]

I must now refer to another point that can be gleaned from the remarks made by heads or top officials of some Arab countries. I should say not only to our neighbors but also to the world, that in accordance with one of the principles of its Constitution, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never been, is not, and will never be hegemonistic; it has never had, does not have, and will never have any intention of attacking, violating, or occupying the rights or soil of anyone. However, it is the perfectly natural right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to strengthen its defensive force. In today's chaotic world, and with the strange enemies Iran has, it should be said that the wisest thing the system has done, and is doing, is strengthening its defenses.

If we buy a submarine, obtain tools and equipment, sign contracts, have comings and goings with various countries and sign agreements with them about various issues, why do some people, who have problems in their own countries and cannot solve them, immediately say Iran is an agent provocateur, that Iran has done this and that? They say that because Iran has purchased equipment, has had naval exercises, has staged exercises for its Basij, has staged nationwide exercises, and so on and so forth. Why do they say things like that? All this is due to their lack of understanding and information. We have no intention of attacking anybody, but we do not allow anyone to violate an inch of Iranian soil. [crowd shouts: "God is great!" "Khamene'i is the leader!"]

We consider our land holy, as we consider our system holy. The reason is perfectly clear: God has created the earth for man to worship him on it, to live in accordance with divine laws. Wherever the lives of the people are in accordance with divine laws, that part of the earth is a pious, healthy, and pure land. But where God does not rule, where the ungodly rule, where the enemies of God rule, where they work against God, that part of the earth has been corrupted. Corruption on earth and piety on earth relate more to piety and corruption in the lives of the people on earth. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in which the Koran and Islam rule, is a pious land.

We must preserve this land. Naturally, to safeguard it we must employ present-day equipment, tools, and technology. And we do that. We prepare our manpower. If we prepare our manpower, stage exercises on land, or at sea, for the Guards, or the Basij, or purchase equipment, and you who have problems with the movement of Muslim youths and Muslims in your own country—who have no connection with us at all—and cannot solve your own problems, why do you immediately talk about us and use these things as evidence?

I, therefore, say clearly—based on the information I have received from the country's top officials—that our country has no intention of attacking anybody at all, but considers it its duty to make preparations. All that is being done is preparatory work to defend against possible dangers.

A move can be seen these days that can be interpreted as a political-legal move, not as a legal-political one. We see that in the report prepared by the representative of the UN special commission. Most of the issues in that report are repeats of the same statements he had prepared in the first round—and most of those issues are attributed to the hypocrites [reference to members of the opposition Mohahedin-e Khalq group]; that is, the hypocrites furnish the evidence. He has repeated those and added some things to them and they are trying to put that report on the UN General Assembly's agenda. This is a

move to introduce Iran as a violator of human rights on the basis of those issues. Well, it is a move.

In the European Parliament, a resolution has been put together and endorsed which, as a result of what must be called the inattentiveness of some members, is based on the statements of the leader of the hypocrites' spouse—I consider this podium too holy to mention his or his spouse's name here—as well as relying on a sentence from one of our newspapers—a newspaper item that itself was baseless to the extent that our country's officials pursued the writer and the paper. It is said in the report that in Iran women's rights are not observed at all; women's rights in Iran are violated more than any others; women this, women that. They approved an issue or a resolution under the guise of supporting women and they also refer to the remarks of that person.

We always used to tell them that the proof of your statements come from the hypocrites, but they used to say no, it is not so. Now we see in this incident that they are even officially naming that hypocrite and quote the text of her remarks and then they say: yes, in Iran women's rights have been violated and are being violated. This is a move.

A letter that one of our prisoners—I ask the people of our country to pay attention to this point—a letter from one of our prisoners....[pauses] I have made enquiries. This prisoner was tried during 14 sessions at the beginning of the victory of the revolution, and the sentence was issued by one our great ulema, who is in a position today. According to the rules and regulations, his sentence should have been a death sentence. But because of the importance of the instance and the exigencies of the time, the imam, may God Almighty be satisfied with him, showed kindness and graciously told the exalted judge to commute his sentence and instead of execution to sentence him to life imprisonment. This gentleman, after a while, makes all sorts of use of the facilities—the prison library is at his disposal, he has a radio at his disposal, they put newspapers at his disposal, whenever has needed a hospital one of the best hospitals in Tehran has been used. Several times he has been sent to private hospitals outside Tehran and has stayed there for long periods. In any case, as much as both international and our internal regulations go, and in my opinion even beyond that, he has been attended to. Now this gentleman has written a letter, apparently in a hospital or elsewhere, and by some means has sent it. The gentleman representing the special commission has published the text of the letter and sent it around by telex and has spread world-wide that yes, the Islamic Republic of Iran's system has been violating human rights for 12 years. This again is a move.

I can give you even more examples. As you know, a while ago a judicial delegation took part in the International Geneva Convention on Civil and Political Rights in order to answer questions. A number of questions were raised and they were answered. And yet the gentlemen go and pursue other debates based on the words of the hypocrites. In London, a meeting of an organization, which is not state-sponsored but calls itself a defender of human rights....[pauses] During the negotiations, the Iranian side said: Mr. so and so, leader of this organization, you know the hypocrites have committed many crimes in our country; you know the way they confronted the leaders of our country; their situation is clear to the world. They even recently joined our enemy. Are you at least prepared to condemn them? He stated very clearly: Certain incidents occurred 12 years ago, why should we condemn them today? What is this you are saying? Free them? Well, they told him: Forget the incidents 12 years ago, what about not so long ago? What about the recent bombings in this country? The people responsible were arrested and it became clear that the hypocrites were responsible. What about all this? He said: Okay, let us see, if we have time we may talk about this and there may be some mini-condemnation.

These movements are not in isolation. My interpretation of these is this: A political-judicial movement has been created. One can say, I believe, that with the change in leadership in America—one group went and another one came in—they intend to put greater pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. One of the tools of this pressure is the issue of human rights. Using the tool of human rights, they want to put more pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Time is running out. Let me continue. I have to raise a few points. First, let me address all institutions and organizations, whether governmental or nongovernmental, who call themselves defenders of human rights. To them I say: The sanctity of rights of humans must not be mixed, must not be contaminated, with political issues. The world will judge, history will judge. Do not become tools at the hands of the world's arrogant powers. If you are really working for human rights, come and be accurate; separate yourselves from political moves. When an arrogant power wills it, you put someone on the list of those who deny human rights, and you cross him off it another day! In today's world, with all the unbelievable crimes that upset every human's soul—which the Serbs are carrying out against the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina—none of you are even saying one word about human rights. [passage omitted]

The second issue: Yes, we are a member of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights; however, Iran signed the convention during the days of the idol [reference to the shah]. When the revolution occurred, when Islam became sovereign in this country, Islam made that signature conditional. This means when the Islamic system became sovereign in this nation, all those things that were against Islam became restricted automatically. This is the right of Iran's leadership; this is the principle of internal laws taking precedence over international laws. The internal laws of a country, which are based on the sovereignty of that country, take precedence over international laws that want to cover many countries. Today our rule is based on Islam; Islam has certain principles that cannot be negated for you or for

your words. Therefore, this convention must be restricted. I call upon the officials—the Foreign Ministry, its international department, and all relevant institutions—to clarify those points restricted by the Islamic system in relation to the civil and political convention, which we have signed and of which we are a member. They must follow up on this, like many other countries that have already done so. Do not let them expect too much from us everyday.

Yes, in Islam we have prescribed punishments. We have a clear judicial system. We have prescribed punishments for certain crimes. Some of them are hudud and qisas [Islamic corporal punishments], some of them are state punishments. We cannot alter hudud, it is God's decree; we cannot change divine laws. We have the death penalty for certain cases. I have said this once before: Today execution exists in our country for particular cases. At the same time, around 117 or 118 countries have the death penalty for ordinary crimes. [passage omitted] In your America, which you refer to as advanced and progressive, the death penalty exists. They published the figures of the number you executed only a few days ago. How come you shout and scream when we execute a few saying: Human rights have been denied! Because a murderer, a rapist, has met his deserved end? I, as the head of the judiciary, say to the world that the Islamic Republic of Iran's judicial system is an Islamic system, which corresponds to a large extent with international standards, and, in those cases where it does not correspond to those standards, we will never change our minds and create that correspondence. We are living our own lives, and we are Muslims. We want to implement Islam. We have not signed any documents saying that we will overturn God's commands in order to please you. The definite principles of Islam cannot be altered by any official.

As to those cases where it is merely a question of considerations of the moment, of a certain juncture, of certain conditions, yes, then we can and have made changes ourselves. As you can see, we take our current laws to the Majles and have them amended; we make things simpler; we adjust our ways of dealing with things. As for the question of legal representation: as you know, we have announced again and again....[pauses] Why do they continue to make this accusation? That gentleman has said again in his recent report that they do not allow lawyers in courts. Which court does not allow lawyers? If an accused says himself that he does not want a lawyer, what does that have to do with not allowing lawyers? In some cases,the court appoints a lawyer. The country's Supreme Court objects if there is no lawyer in court. Simply because they still want to line up a few charges and say Iran does not observe certain things, they say the issue of legal representation is one of these things that is not observed in Iran.

No, our legal system is a complete and advanced Islamic system and international standards....[pauses] As far as I am concerned, we can bring them into alignment with what they say in the world. We are pursuing it and, fortunately, we have had clarifying discussions in our meetings. In one meeting held in Europe, when things were explained to him, one high-ranking judicial figure was surprised and said: Is that really how your legal system works? We said: yes, these are the principles of our Constitution and these are our fundemental laws. That is to say: civil laws, Islamic penal laws, our legal procedures, our basic laws. He was surprised and said: Well, what about the things we have been told? What about the things they say? Well, it is your fault if you do not have enough information.

Therefore, the last point I want to make: When you accuse us of violating human rights, we see this as a political-legal move, not as a legal move that may also have political applications. [sentence as heard] And our comments are as I said. We will never make any kind of change to Islam's definite principles; no official would be able to do that. Our people would not allow us to pass judgment on the basis of non-Islamic principles. Our people say: We have sacrificed relatives as martyrs; we have struggled; we have made so many sacrifices, endured so many difficulties in order to establish the rule of God's religion. Now, because some person somewhere does not like this, you want us to change our ways to suit him—that is impossible.

We recieve letters from throughout the world every month on a regular basis, an average of 25 to 35 letters per month, on these same issues that we have answered repeatedly, often from this very platform. We, therefore, hope the world will pay attention and not mingle political matters with legal ones.

We hope that throughout these trials and tribulations, our system's officials....[pauses] Truly, when I see some of the pressures that the eminent leader and the honorable president have to endure and the clear programs that they must devise to rid the system of these pressures, I pray most sincerely. Much of it cannot be made known to our people, and there is no need for them to know. Let me say, however, that you have extremely worthy and suitable officials and leaders who are doing their utmost to protect this system from its enemies. [passage omitted on Koranic verse]

Official Asserts Right To Strengthen Defense

LD2911171292 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Iran will beef up its defense power as it deems appropriate and regards it as its "natural and legal right", Deputy Commander of Iran's Naval Forces, Rear Admiral Abbas Mohtaj told a press conference here Sunday.

He condemned the Western ballyhoo over the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf and said the islands are "an integral part of Iran", and as proved during the eight-year Iraqi war, Iranians will not surrender even an inch of their soil to foreigners.

The official called it "unfortunate" that Persian Gulf states influenced by the foreign propaganda regarding the three islands—Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb—have allowed their relations with Iran to be marred.

He pointed out that since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in 1979, Iran has provided welfare services to the quarters of Sharjah nationals on Abu Musa and even operated its jetty at a significant cost for their travel to and from the United Arab Emirates.

He said despite the end of the Persian Gulf war, foreign forces continue to be present in the region all the same. A total of 60 foreign military vessels including one or two American warships and a 6,000-ton sophisticated U.S. submarine equipped with missiles and radars are present in the Persian Gulf region, he added.

Mohtaj condemned the hue and cry raised by the West over Iran's acquisition of a submarine and drew attention that over the past six months, the U.S., Britain, France have held 15 maneuvers in coordination with regional countries and member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, besides concluding dlrs 200 billion worth of agreement.

"It is surprising that they are raising such a ballyhoo over a single submarine," he added.

At the end of the press conference, Mohtaj disclosed that Iran's armed forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps are to hold their joint annual maneuvers soon in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

$450 Million Paid for Subs

NC3011105692 Paris AFP in English 0908 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov 30 (AFP)—Iran paid 450 million dollars for three submarines it bought from Russia, acting navy chief Rear Admiral 'Abbas Mohtaj told Monday's Iranian press.

Mohtaj said the vessels were "equipped with the latest weapons to wage an undersea war" and had "sea-to-air missiles to defend themselves against enemy planes."

The first of the submarines, Tareq-901, arrived at the southern port of Bandar-e 'Abbas last week.

The 2,450 tonne "Kilo" class vessels, among the biggest conventionally powered submarines built by the former Soviet Union, will have 52-man all Iranian crews, Mohtaj said.

He added that the Iranian navy, army and revolutionary guards would hold maneuvers in the near future in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. He did not say if the submarine would take part.

Mohtaj revealed Sunday that Iran had bought three Russian submarines, without saying when the other two would be delivered. Western reports earlier said Tehran had only taken an option on a third, and estimated the price at between 200 million and 250 million dollars each.

Iran's purchase of the submarines has caused concern among Iran's Gulf neighbours and Western countries with warships deployed in the region to enforce sanctions against Iraq.

In the wake of the deal, the United States deployed a nuclear-power submarine in the Gulf for the first time.

Velayati Denies Effort To Acquire Nuclear Weapons

LD2711180292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati described Iran's arms purchases as normal and rational, and denied the purchase of nuclear weapons.

At a meeting today with Kunihiko Saito, Japan's deputy foreign minister for political affairs, Velayati said: At a time when we are engaged in reconstructing our country's infrastructure, it is natural that we should allocate most of the country's budget to that issue. Our normal and rational purchase of arms—due to our experience of Saddam's violation of our country—is very limited, and is merely for defensive purposes. We are for peace, stability, and security in the region. Our stance at the time of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait is good proof of that.

He described the propaganda regarding Iran's purchase of nuclear weapons as incorrect and categorically denied it. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has made no attempt to acquire nuclear weapons and is committed to international regulations regarding the peaceful use of nuclear power.

At the meeting, the Japanese deputy foreign minister, having lauded Iran's efforts toward the country's reconstruction, termed Iran's role in maintaining peace and stability in the region as important. He thanked our country for its efforts with regard to the above-mentioned issues.

More on Talks With Japan

LD2811160692 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Kunihiko Saito and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Oceania Affairs Ala'ddin Boroujerdi exchanged views on Iran's policy towards the Persian Gulf states, the situation in Iraq and in the Central Asian Republics and relations with Western countries, here today.

Rejecting Iraq's possible partition, Saito said that the seven industrial countries (G7) had stressed on preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity in their recent meeting.

The visiting Japanese official hailed the expansion of Iran's relations with the Persian Gulf Arab states as well as its assistance to the Central Asian and Caucasian Republics. He remarked that any problem in the region must be resolved peacefully and through bilateral talks.

Boroujerdi told Saito that Iran's policy in the region had not changed. "We believe that security in the Persian Gulf must be maintained by the regional countries and therefore welcome cooperation with other Persian Gulf states," he added.

Iran has established close and friendly mutual ties with all the Central Asian Republics as well as with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Caspian Sea Littoral States Cooperation Organization, Boroujerdi said.

On Iran's recent arms purchases Boroujerdi said according to the official statistics released by the world's creditable military publications Iran's arms purchase rate is less than all other Persian Gulf states. "We intend to allocate some of our millitary production lines to non-military products."

The Japanese deputy foreign minister arrived here last Thursday heading a delegation for negotiations with Iranian officials.

Majles Speaker Deplores UN Human Rights Report

LD2911123992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to our correspondent's report, in today's Majles session, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri, who was presiding over the session, expressed his condolences on the martyrdom anniversary of Her Holiness Fatimah Zahrah, the great lady of Islam, may God's blessing be upon her.

He then described the UN human rights envoy's report on the violation of human rights in Iran as malicious and a totally political move. He added: Our nation has always suspected and doubted the sincerity of those who claim to be human rights supporters. Today, through this totally political move, this doubt has become a certainty; we are certain of their lack of sincerity.

Nateq-Nuri went on to criticize the silence of those who claim to be human rights supporters in the face of the suppression of the Muslims and the infringement of their rights in various parts of the world.

He expressed his regret at the criticisms made by some European parliaments regarding the fatwa issued by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to paradise, with regard to the apostate Salman Rushdie and the implementation of Islamic rules in Iran. He said: These people are making idle statements against Iran and Islam, without paying attention to the principles and the supporters of the religion. They think that we will relinquish Islamic principles because they have created this adverse climate of opinion. The Majles speaker emphasized: Our nation is proud of Islam and its sacred principles, and deems it its duty to revive Islamic thinking and defend the rights of Muslims throughout the world.

Remarking on the wave of awakening among nations, Nateq-Nuri urged the leaders of Muslim countries not to take Islamic movements lightly, to stop creating a hostile climate of opinion, and to cease their suppressive actions.

Bridge Over River to Turkmenistan Under Construction

LD2911111592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Continuing the implementation of agreements reached between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan on the expansion of bilateral cooperation, the construction of a temporary bridge over the Tajan river, which forms the border between the two countries, has begun in the Sarakhs region.

The bridge is 135 meters long, 5 meters wide, and 6.5 meters high. It is capable of carrying a weight of 45 tonnes. The Ministry of Roads and Transport has provided the allocated cost of 680 million rials. The Tajan temporary border bridge will be built in 45 days to the standards of Iranian roads. It will be able to cope with heavy vehicle traffic and the comings and goings of the nationals of the two countries of Iran and Turkmenistan.

Russian Minister Offers Help To Stop Bloodshed in Bosnia

LD2911171592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] The Russian foreign minister, in a message to our country's foreign minister, Velayati, announced his country's readiness to contact the Islamic Republic of Iran to solve the problem of Bosnia-Hercegovina. The message, which is sent in view of the Islamic Republic of Iran's key role in calling the Islamic conference, says: Russia understands the Islamic countries' concern over the fate of the Bosnian Muslims, and the Russian Government wishes to stop the bloodshed.

Daily Claims West Blocked Velayati Visit to Sarajevo

LD2811114092 Tehran IRNA in English 0856 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—The Islamic countries face a very grave responsibility in Jeddah and it is incumbent on them to reach a definite resolution to end the genocide that is going on in Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H), said the TEHRAN TIMES Saturday.

Foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] will convene in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, December 1-2 to study ways of ending the Bosnian crisis.

The English daily blamed the Western countries for preventing Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's planned visit to the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo. Last Wednesday, he left here for the Croatian capital of Zagreb and planned to visit Sarajevo too, but failed to accomplish his trip due to negative responses from U.N. officials.

The paper also criticized the Islamic countries for adopting a "policy of silence" after the outbreak of the civil war among the republics of the former Yugoslavia under the pretext that the war is mainly a European affair.

"The Islamic world felt it had to interfere, only when the dubious positions adopted by England, Russia and France were exposed in the views of the people knowledgeable in political affairs."

"The West should realize that neither Iran nor any other Islamic country are seeking to embark on a religious war. But on the other hand it is impossible for them to remain silent in the face of the genocide. The West probably did not want the Iranian foreign minister to be witness to the murders that are going on in Sarajevo, and which he would undoubtedly recount at the conference in Jeddah."

"The promises of peace offered by Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen are more like dreams than reality, and the fragile ceasefires are no longer taken seriously by either side of the hostilities. The Serbs will not acquiesce to any peace proposal until they are encountered by military force," concluded TEHRAN TIMES.

Paper Urges ICO To Support Military Action in Bosnia

LD2911154692 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Two morning dailies Sunday commented on the ministerial session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO], to be held in Jeddah December 1-2, to adopt measures to stop Serbian massacre of Muslims in Bosnia- Hercegovina (B-H).

ABRAR said that the Jeddah confab would be successful only if it opts for military intervention in Bosnia. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI wrote that nobody would count on the session if it fails to adopt decisive, practical and immediate decisions and provide the ground for ending the Bosnian catastrophe.

The commentary in ABRAR said that the heart-rending war in Bosnia demands the immediate world intervention to bring a halt to the war and in this case the Islamic countries should assume the greatest role.

It said the war in Bosnia and the question of Palestine are the two major and principal sources of concern for the Islamic ummah.

The Islamic states should have realised by now that the West would act only when its own vital interests demand so, and that the military intervention of the United Nations, aimed at exerting pressure on Serbs, is out of question unless favorable conditions are provided for the West, it underlined.

Therefore, it said, under the status quo, saving the lives of the oppressed Bosnian Muslims is a task of the Islamic countries which, through adoption of a more ardent stand versus the West and plans for military intervention, would make the West face a "fait accompli".

Certainly the presence in Jeddah session of 45 world countries, which mostly enjoy huge energy sources, can lead to finding a way to put an end to the sufferings of Bosnian Muslims provided that the Islamic countries have a united and unified stand and put aside, at least temporarily, their internal diffferences and competitions with the aim to meet a more exalted objective.

The paper in conclusion urged the Islamic countries to:

—immediately request lifting of the arms embargo against B-H,

—invite all the world countries to join the military operations,

—adopt preventive measures against possible U.N. opposition to their moves,

—set up a joint command headquarters in the region,

—make coordination among the armies of the Islamic countries to facilitate dispatch of forces and weapons,

—ask the rich Islamic states to meet the cost of the war,

—employ war experiences of countries like the Islamic Republic, Afghanistan and Palestine, and finally

—launch diplomatic moves to justify military intervention before the world public opinion and prevent outbreak of a crusade in the region.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said the OIC, due to its scope of activities and diversity in views of member states has

hardly been able to reach a definite objective and adopt a serious, practical and effective stance.

The paper regretted that the Muslim countries had differing views on the Bosnian catastrophe and that certain countries, under the pressure of Satanic powers, were not acting according to their Islamic and humanitarian responsibility. "They are assigned to hinder the adoption of an effective, serious, practical and immediate decision of the Islamic world to end the Bosnian catastrophe."

It also blamed the West for pushing the Islamic world towards indecisiveness and inaction. By resorting to "procrastination", they hope to provide the savage Serbs with a chance to lead the Bosnian calamity into the collapse of the only Islamic state in the heart of Europe.

The paper believed that it is not accidental that on the eve of the Jeddah session, the "Voice of America" and other media horns of global arrogance are speaking of the "threat" of Islam in Europe.

"The criminal U.S. by its dirty propaganda ploy wants to create a sort of sentimental link between the world public opinion and the barbarous Serbs with the aim to insinuate the idea that the savagery of the Serbs is in the interest of the West and Europe," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

The Jeddah conference must, through adoption of a clear, effective and firm decision, neutralize the anti-human propaganda tirade of the criminal U.S. and the Serbian savages, and pave the ground for ending the blood-curdling catastrophe in the Balkans, said the daily.

Otherwise, it added, the session would be an exercise in futility where neither the sufferings of the Bosnian people nor the tyrannies of the Serbs would count.

Paper Calls For Quick Settlement of Abu Musa

LD3011095292 Tehran IRNA in English 0733 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Nov. 30, IRNA—An English daily Monday called on Iran and the United Arab Emirates to settle their differences on Abu Musa island as soon as possible in a friendly atmosphere to make it impossible for the enemies of both countries to capitalise on the issue.

The 'TEHRAN TIMES' was commenting in its editorial on the recent statements by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz who accused Iran of having "expansionist" tendencies.

Demanding the lifting of the U.N. embargo on his country, 'Aziz claimed that the weakened position of Iraq had made possible the Iranian "occupation" of the Abu Musa island.

"By launching a propaganda campaign on the supposed tendency of the Iranian Government for expansion, Iraq managed to receive huge financial and military assistance."

The editorial entitled "Using an Antiquated Stratagem One More Time" [in] the daily mentioned the fact that after the Iraqi imposed war on Iran and later the Baghdad regime's invasion of Kuwait, the "duped countries of the region finally realised that it is Iraq which harbors expansionist plans in mind and not Iran."

The daily criticised the Iraqi regime for failing to replace the officials who had justified Iraq's occupation of Kuwait even as a face-saving maneuver after its humiliating defeat.

"People like Tariq 'Aziz are such well known supporters of Iraq's aggressive tactics that they can not be expected to attract any attention, and that explains Tariq 'Aziz's dismal failure to arouse any sympathetic response in U.N."

Stressing that 'Aziz's role during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had weakened Iraq's position in the United Nations, the editorial said "it would seem that the Iraqi regime will have to trump up newer tricks in order to deceive the regional countries once again. None of these countries will buy the old trick of posing Iran as a big threat in the region."

Commentary Discusses Egyptian Opposition

NC2811183092 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Nov 92 p 13

[Unattributed commentary: "The Mubarak Regime—Enmeshed in the Fury of Muslim Egyptian Youth"]

[Text] In the last decade of the 20th century, which has been termed the "decade of Muslim awakening," Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has become embroiled with north African youth, who are vehement critics of his regime's policies regarding the world of Islam.

The Egyptian youth who are attacking the manifestations of the decadent West are demanding the establishment of an Islamic government in the land of the pharaohs. Mubarak has labeled them ruffians and hooligans, but has repeatedly stated that the cause of agitation in the country is the infiltration of Islamic thoughts and ideas, which he claims are being exported to Egypt from Iran.

Mubarak reached an agreement on what he called the "danger from Iran" with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during his recent visit. They agreed that Iran poses a danger and threat to the other regional countries, including Saudi Arabia.

This meeting took place just a few days before the beginning of Egypt's verbal campaign against Iran. Addressing a parliamentary delegation last week, Mubarak rejected the idea of resuming relations with

Iran, even though there have been no such overtures or invitations from Tehran. He vociferously declared that "Egypt will not renege on its role of ensuring the national security of the Arabs and the Persian Gulf."

When the military aspect of the Persian Gulf war ended, Egypt demanded numerous concessions as remuneration from its "Arab brothers," but the greatest privilege it extracted was that its foreign debts were written off. The Egyptian president described his relations with Arab countries as extremely cordial and at the best level possible, which is obvious after his country's nine years of complete isolation.

Among Egypt's other expectations as booty from the Persian Gulf war was that Egypt would be able to sign defense and security pacts with the Persian Gulf countries, so that it could amass petrodollars. Egypt lacks a powerful navy and an operational army for a presence in the Persian Gulf, however, so any hopes it had for a permanent presence in the Persian Gulf and attaining the leadership of the Arab world as part of security and defense arrangements, named the "six plus two" plan, were dashed.

This plan was also foiled by Iran's opposition regarding the presence of all kinds of foreign forces in regional security arrangements. The matter ended after a few sessions were held and statements were issued.

Last week, Egyptian security forces intensified their efforts to crush the country's Muslims, and justified their inability to control the popular uprising by claiming that Iran was interfering in the country's internal affairs.

In principle, Mubarak and other Egyptian officials sought to close their eyes to the existing realities in their society and in other Islamic societies. Even though he has cordial relations with his Israeli counterpart and the other echelons of the Zionist regime, Mubarak is incapable of comprehending the extent to which the martyrdom and torture of the Palestinian brothers ignite the fire of loathing in the hearts of Egyptian Muslims, so therefore he is treading the wrong path.

Middle East political experts who claimed that relations between the two countries were improving now believe that Egyptian authorities have suffered a major setback from activities of Islamist groups who attacked tourists in the country. While being aware that the roots of the problem should be sought within the country, the Egyptian regime attributes it to extraneous elements and feebly seeks to justify its weakness with such claims.

AL-KHALIJ, published in al-Shariqah, cited a high-level Egyptian official as saying: Egypt will not permit Iran to export its revolution to this country.

Quoting Egyptian Agriculture Minister Yusuf Amin Wali, the same newspaper reported that Iran was distributing arms among the youth in the city of Port Said to attack foreign tourists and deal a blow to its economy. By training Egyptian youth, Iran intends to destroy al-'Aali Dam, thus damaging Egypt's agriculture.

By propounding the stale claims of dispatching arms and training arsonists and reviving claims of exporting the revolution, Egyptian officials should realize that revolutions are not a commodity that can be exported via guns.

An analysis of the sociopolitical situation in the Middle East, northern Africa, and the Persian Gulf requires an in-depth appraisal. The Mubarak regime is unable to grasp the reality that its obsequious policies toward the Zionist regime and treachery toward Palestinian aspirations have wounded the Egyptian Muslims' Islamic sensitivities and national pride, and therefore, their resistance against the Egyptian rulers' degrading policies is natural and to be expected.

If the angry young Egyptians and Algerians manifest their repressed beliefs in the form of an outcry, it is because they consider the silence of their lackadaisical and compromising leaders as a form of collusion with the criminals.

After years of isolation stemming from the signing of the disgraceful Camp David accord, the Egyptian regime has now acquired the opportunity to strive for its vision of the leadership of the Arab world under the guise of protecting Arab nationalism, and it was this very motive that, in the extreme, destroyed Baghdad in the past few years.

This long-standing dream motivated Egyptian rulers to extend their support to the fallacious claims by the UAE [United Arab Emirates] regarding the three Iranian islands and to pose as defenders of the fraternal Arab countries. However, the Egyptians can see their sweet fantasy evaporating because of two factors: first, the minimizing and diminishing of the importance of Egypt's role in the Middle East from the perspective of Israel and the United States in view of the increasing possibility of the success of direct talks between Syria and Israel, in which case, Egypt will lose its privileged status in the region. The second factor can be found in remarks by Bill Clinton a few hours after his victory in the elections regarding the need for greater concessions to Israel from the Arabs in talks. The utter disillusionment stemming from certain events, such as the earthquake, which further exposed the economic impotence of the country's leaders, dealt another psychological blow to Mubarak which was aggravated by pressure from public opinion. It appears that the Egyptian rulers could see no way of extricating themselves from this ever-mounting pressure, except by intensifying the differences between Iran and Egypt and provoking nationalist Arab sentiments. With the exacerbation of differences between Egypt and Iran, the Algerian Government took steps to reduce its diplomatic cadre to a symbolic level in the capitals of the two countries.

The politico-security officials in this country accused the Iranian Embassy of being a center for espionage and

claimed that Iran had close links with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], to which it was extending support.

All political and diplomatic circles are aware of the extensive sphere of activities and influence of the FIS. Iran has repeatedly told leaders of Islamic countries to bestow the lawful rights of the Muslim nation on their people and refrain from wounding the Islamic sensitivities of the Muslim people. Inattention to this fundamental issue cannot justify their claims that Iran is provoking the Muslim nations.

It would be preferable if the rulers of Algeria and Egypt were to refrain from making hasty comments and accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of intervening in their internal affairs and seek the roots of their problems within their own country. They should pay greater attention to the needs and moral aspirations of their nations, which emanate from Islam and Islamic solidarity.

French Role in Mideast Peace Talks Viewed

LD2811214192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The French president, Francois Mitterrand, at the end of his 48-hour visit to the occupied Palestine arrived in Amman yesterday [27 November] and opened his talks with King Husayn. The talks of the French president and his accompanying high-ranking political and economic team, with the king and the key officials of Jordan have been described as significant, in view of the concurrent deadlock in the so-called Middle East peace negotiations. The French president, at the outset of his Amman visit, termed Jordan as an essential participant for attaining any amicable settlement in the Middle East region, and declared that his trip to that country shows such a belief.

Despite the unproductive nature of the so-called Middle East peace talks and the current stalemate in them, Francois Mitterrand, while supporting the continuation of the bilateral peace parleys, noted: I prefer peace, even though it comes at a slow pace, to having absolutely no peace at all. The French president's visit to the occupied Palestine and Jordan which in fact denotes the effort of Paris to activate the so-called peace talks process of Israel with the Arabs and the Palestinians mostly stresses his country's desire to play a more active role in bringing closer the viewpoints of the sides involved in the parleys. At the same time, certain political circles in the region, too, in consideration of the French role among the European states, want Paris to have a more active involvement in this regard. And the reason is that certain Arab circles view as a positive step, the French entry into the so-called peace process, based on the numerous reasons given by them on the U.S. support for Israel. In this way they are trying to remove the so-called Middle East talks process, from the monopolistic guiding role of America. However, the note worth pointing in this connection relates to the power for maneuver that France may have in this matter. At the same time, one cannot ignore the interests which the French pursue through their efforts for renewed active presence in the Middle East. On this account, there are more vivid indications about the desire on the part of Paris for participating in the economic projects and securing the profitable markets of the region militarily, as well as, in industrial and commercial terms. In this same connection, the French president's visit to the region, and his meetings with the Israeli and Jordanian officials in consideration of the so-called peace talks process, which has been considerably influenced by the recent changes in the White House, and in the coming to power of the Democrats, have apparently provided France with the suitable ground, in its own thinking, to create an opening in the peace process.

In the midst, the Israeli officials have not shown any appreciable reaction to the mediating measures of Paris and the peace parleys and assess the visit of Mitterrand to Tel Aviv, mostly, as an effort aimed at activating the French-Israeli relations. But the comments of the French president on introducing the PLO as the sole lawful representative of the Palestinians, and supporting the Palestinians in their right to have a Palestinian state, on the one hand, and also his stress on attaining a broad-based peace in the region, on the other, can from the viewpoint of certain political analysts be construed as an undertaking on the part of Paris to adopt certain measures towards activating the so-called peace process.

Opposition Figure Views Internal Situation

NC2911105392 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Mohammad Seyyed Mohaddesin, head of the International Relations Department of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO, and political adviser to organization leader Mas'ud Rajavi, in Paris, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded; Mohaddesin's answers in Persian are translated into Arabic by Dr. Sanavari Zahidi, MKO official responsible for Arab affairs]

[Excerpt] [al-Jundi] Dr. Seyyed Mohaddesin, let us begin this dialogue with the recent suspect Iranian activity to support extremist movements in a number of Arab states, particularly in Egypt and Algeria. What is your analysis of this Iranian activity?

[Mohaddesin] The analysis of this phenomenon is very clear, because Khomeyni and his regime have officially announced that Islamic governments must be set up in all Islamic states. Of course, when they talk about an Islamic government, they mean a terroristic religious dictatorship like the one now dominating Iran. One of the mullahs' dreams is to establish a huge Islamic empire similar to the former Ottoman Empire. They want to be at the center of this empire. After Khomeyni's death, and

because the internal conditions as a result of Khomeyni's departure from the arena became more tragic than ever, they resorted to exporting terrorism and extremism to the other countries. They, of course, call it exporting the revolution. This has been especially true in recent months, during which the people have gone out into the streets in various Iranian cities and announced their discontent with and indignation against the mullahs' regime and its actions and announced their support for the Iranian (?opposition), led by Rajavi. The regime found itself urgently needing to resort to such actions and attempts to export these crises.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Seyyed Mohaddesin, reports have indicated that the Iranian budget deficit has reached $12 billion annually. Some observers think Iran currently is following the Israeli policy; trying to solve its economic problems through foreign aggression. What is your comment on this?

[Mohaddesin] It is absolutely true that the criminal mullah rulers in Iran are following such a policy. As you noted, the budget deficit is increasing every year. The regime's foreign debt has reached $32 billion. Its domestic debt to the Iranian Central Bank equals $150 billion. Inflation is increasing and has reached 60 percent. Some 50 percent of Iranian workers are unemployed, meaning that there are 15 million people without jobs. About 80 percent of the Iranian people are living below the poverty line. This means their daily income is less than the equivalent of $1. These facts have brought the economic situation in Iran to the point of explosion and have led to extreme discontent among the Iranian people. We were able to translate this situation into demonstrations. The Mojahedin-e Khalq have been able to turn this tragic economic situation into protest movements and demonstrations. The Iranian people have become aware that these conditions will continue as long as this regime continues in Iran. Under such critical internal conditions, the regime is seeking to find an outside enemy to which it can export its problems.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Seyyed Mohaddesin, a recent report by the head of the UN Human Rights Committee, which recently visited Iran, noted increased acts of torture, detention, and executions. The report also noted numerous human rights violations in Iran. What reports do you, as an Iranian opposition group, have about human right violations by the ruling regime?

[Mohaddesin] The Khomeyni regime has been basing itself and concentrating on two pillars: one is the exporting of crises, extremism, and wars; and second, the imposition of total repression at home. During the past 11 years, this regime has executed more than 100,000 political prisoners and arrested more than 150,000 people, subjecting them to savage torture. The Khomeyni regime does not tolerate any internal political opposition and cannot accept any kind of freedom in Iranian society. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Agreement With France on N-Plant Expected 'Soon'

BK3011093192 Islamabad THE NATION in English 30 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Lahore—The French Ambassador to Pakistan Jean-Pierre Masset has confirmed that the agreement for the nuclear power plant between France and Pakistan will be signed soon.

He was talking to the journalists at Meet the Press programme arranged by Lahore Press Club on Sunday. He said previously there were two occasions when Pakistan came closer to France on the agreement of reprocessing plant and on 'a green signal' given by President Mitterrand in February 91 for a nuclear power plant. 'But the two deals have to be cancelled because of some difficulties appeared during the transitions of one government to another in Pakistan,' he commented. He said the matter remained untouched during the caretaker Government of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi.

According to him Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif made a successful visit to France in January 92, and France has agreed to transfer the nuclear technology to Pakistan for developing purposes including medical diagnosis and other scientific matters. He said that during Nawaz Sharif's visit to France, it was finalised to pay a compensation of Fr 500 million (US$ 130 million) for the cancellation of agreement of reprocessing plant.

He said that Pakistan was being supported by France in many fields. "There have been 'long' (old) traditions of military cooperation between the two countries," he maintained reckoning a number of items being used by Pakistan military including Mirage fighter aircraft, Puma and Lama helicopters, French range of missiles and others.

He said that France supported Pakistan in its election as the member of UN Security Council. He said that France had also supported the resolution by Pakistan for making the South Asian region a nuclear free zone and the Nawaz Government's idea of conference of five countries on the issue.

Mr Masset turned down that the Pakistan's denial to sign the NPT [Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty] was an obstacle for the transfer of unclear power plant. He emphasised that Pakistan should follow China in signing the NPT.

Talking about the economic field, he said there was a lot of room for the improvement of relations between the two countries. He said the language barrier should be diminished so that the students from Pakistan could avail the benefit of French technology as he opined the French technology was as good as they were best a la mode. [sentence as received]

U.S. Not Blocking Sale

BK3011092592 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 30 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Lahore—French ambassador to Pakistan Jean Pierre Masset has dispelled the impression that the American administration had pressurised his government for the cancellation of agreement regarding the supply of a nuclear reprocessing plant to Pakistan.

Talking to THE FRONTIER POST at a get-together held by Lahore Press Club at a local hotel on Sunday, the French ambassador said that since Paris had started thinking about signing NPT [Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty], the proposal to provide nuclear reprocessing plant to Islamabad was shelved for the time being.

He maintained that rapid changes taking place in Pakistan had also played a key role in delaying the provision of the nuclear reprocessing plant.

Bhutto Says No Foreign Influence on 'Long March'

BK2811102092 Islamabad THE NATION in English 28 Nov 92 p 1, 4

[Text] Lahore—The Co-Chairperson of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Benazir Bhutto has denied reports that she was asked by American and British diplomats to call off her long march, saying no foreign power could influence party decisions.

"When asked, the other day, whether I had been exhorted to call off the march, I wondered how anyone could expect the Executive Committee's decisions to be influenced by these countries," she said while addressing the launching ceremony of Dr Khalid Javed's Mein Baghi Hoon at a crowded hall of a local hotel on Friday.

The Leader of the Opposition criticised Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for praising the foreign Press for its commentary on the march and claimed that only those sections were published which were in the Government's favour. She said the country's Chief Executive's praise for the foreign media was unprecedented and indicated that the Government lacked the support of the local Press. "Yet we do not have lobbying firms abroad as they do," she added.

Bhutto found it strange that while Nawaz Sharif was busy praising the foreign media the CNN's coverage of the long march had been censored. "The credit for censoring an international network for the first time in history goes to the Nawaz Sharif Government," she praised the Government sarcastically.

She said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had by no means an admirable reputation in the eyes of the international community 'as the Government would like to portray and insisted that various human rights agencies including Amnesty International and Women Parliamentarians had expressed concern over the abuse of human rights by the present regime. "They have been condemned internally as well as externally," she said and mentioned the message of concern received by the Government from Col al-Qadhdhafi as an example.

Condemning the baton charge on PPP supporters in Rawalpindi on Thursday, she said the Government feared the 'power of the people'. "How can the Government's batons scare these people who were undounted by the batons of the British," she said.

On the issue of the arrests of PPP supporters the Co-Chairperson said by releasing only some of the leaders, the Government sought to create the impression that all political prisoners had been set free. "In fact, our workers in [words indistinct] are still under custody together with former Chief Minister Aftab Shapao. Only the prisoners in Balochistan have been released," she said.

Pointing out that Punjab PPP leader Sh [as published] Rafiq and thousands of others were yet to be released, she said the Government changed laws to suit its illegitimate purposes.

She also congratulated the people on the lauching of the PTV's second channel, claiming it was a part of the PPP Government's project under which five channels would be launched within five years. "This channel was intended as an educational channel and it is yet to be seen whether it would be used for importing education to the people or for [word indistinct] propaganda," she said.

Emphasising the role of poets in the making of a nation, she said the present Government had imposed restrictions on the ideas of the people and said copies of the Jiddojahed had been confiscated because "these rulers are afraid of the truth".

She commended Dr Khalid Javed's collection of poems, saying she had first read his poem Mein Bagid Hoon while her stay in London in 1985 and had found it very appealsing. "The conditions now are not very different from those in 1985, and Dr Javed has fought the war of the oppressed with his poetry," she said, pointing out that the poem Qatal Ki Raat, symbolised the night of hanging.

The poet Dr Khalid Javed in his speech said his poetry was aimed at expressing solidarity with the oppressed. He said Benazir Bhutto had always been a leader of the poor and the masses and had sacrificed a lot for the country. Others speakers included local PPP leader Pakhr Zeman, young poet Nazir Qaiser, and Shahzada Alamgir.

Bhutto Supporters Ordered Released From Jail

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[Text] Islamabad, Nov 28 (AFP)—Pakistan prison officials said Saturday they were releasing jailed followers of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, satisfying one of her demands.

More than 200 people were released Friday from Adiala Jail in nearby Rawalpindi, the focal point of Bhutto's November 18 "long march" on Islamabad, which was foiled by police and paramilitary forces.

The opposition People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) has accused authorities of arresting some 25,000 workers and activists in a crackdown in the past 10 days. Government officials put the figure at around 2,000.

Bhutto herself was detained briefly for defying a ban on holding a rally in Rawalpindi and a march on Islamabad on November 18 in her campaign to oust Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Sharif became prime minister after 1990 elections that Bhutto charges were rigged. Bhutto had been removed from the prime ministership months before the elections by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who accused her of corruption.

Yaar Mohammed, the superintendent at Adiala Jail, said that 215 people had been set free out of some 800 people arrested. They were mostly from Bhutto's home province of Sindh.

The remaining prisoners would be freed Saturday afternoon, he said.

The released prisoners were transported to the Rawalpindi railway station and boarded a passenger train bound for the southern province, he said.

Dozens of people were freed from other jails in the populous province of Punjab, sources said.

The government on Thursday lifted a ban from Islamabad and nearby Rawalpindi imposed on Bhutto after her march on the capital, but the opposition leader said she would refuse to enter the capital unless all detainees were released.

The PDA said Friday that another protest march would start on December 3, when Bhutto would lead a vehicular caravan from Punjab's Multan city to Lahore, addressing roadside meetings at major towns along the 500-kilometers (300-mile) route.

Bhutto and her party addressed crowds of thousands as they traveled by train last week across country to muster public support against Sharif's two year old government.

Officials in Peshawar said all political activists detained in North-West Frontier Province were also being freed Saturday.

Press reports quoting provincial home secretary Gulzar Khan said the number of people detained in the province "never exceeded" 1,200, including some senior PDA leaders.

Khan denied PDA claims that the provincial authorities had detained 10,000 people. He reportedly said cases registered against all PDA activists would be withdrawn.

Simultaneously the security clampdown has been withdrawn from the Islamabad region and a similar relaxation was reported in other cities in Punjab.

Sources said the army leadership had "quietly" urged Bhutto and Sharif to end the confrontation through talks because of the situation's adverse affect on the country's economic and social life.

So far no headway has been reported toward the negotiating table as both sides continued a verbal war of mutual recriminations.